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in one MOMENT

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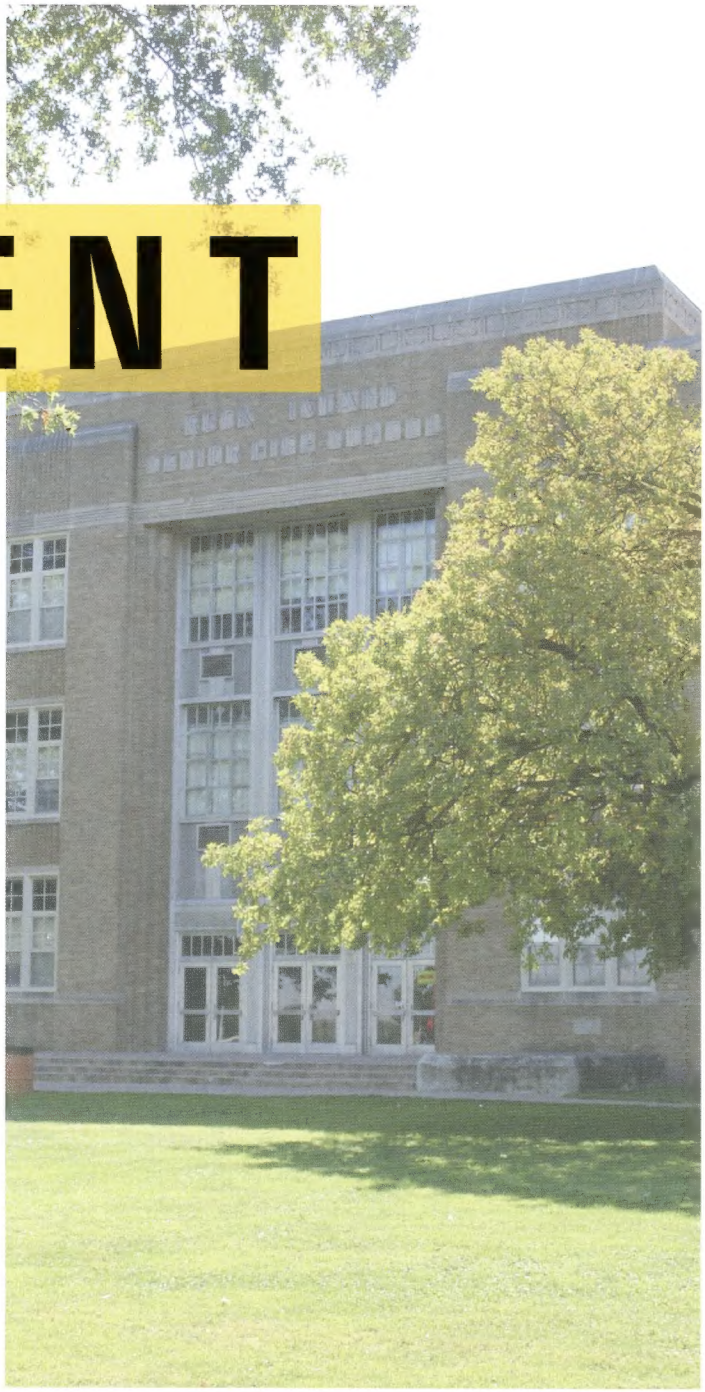


It can be hard to explain what it's like to be a high school student. At a time when we have so many feelings, we often have a difficult time pinning down that exact moment of Rocky pride we experience, or that one moment when we feel like we belong here. But at some point, in one moment, everything changes.

That moment looks different for each of us. Maybe it's the first time you run through the tunnel at a football game, or march on the field to perform your show, or maybe it's the first time you rock the red and gold in our student section. Maybe it's the first time you suit up in a Rocky uniform, or take the stage in our auditorium.

Maybe your moment isn't one under the lights or in competition. Maybe it's just in class, when you find a subject or cause you're passionate about.

In a moment, your understanding of what it means to be a Rock changes. Your perspective shifts. This place becomes more than a building, and the people in it become more than your peers. In a moment, Rocky can become your home, and those in it, become friends who can influence you for the rest of your life. That one moment is all you need.

CHECK OUT THIS
YEARBOOK VIDEO ⇨
CREATED BY AIDAN HENDERSON

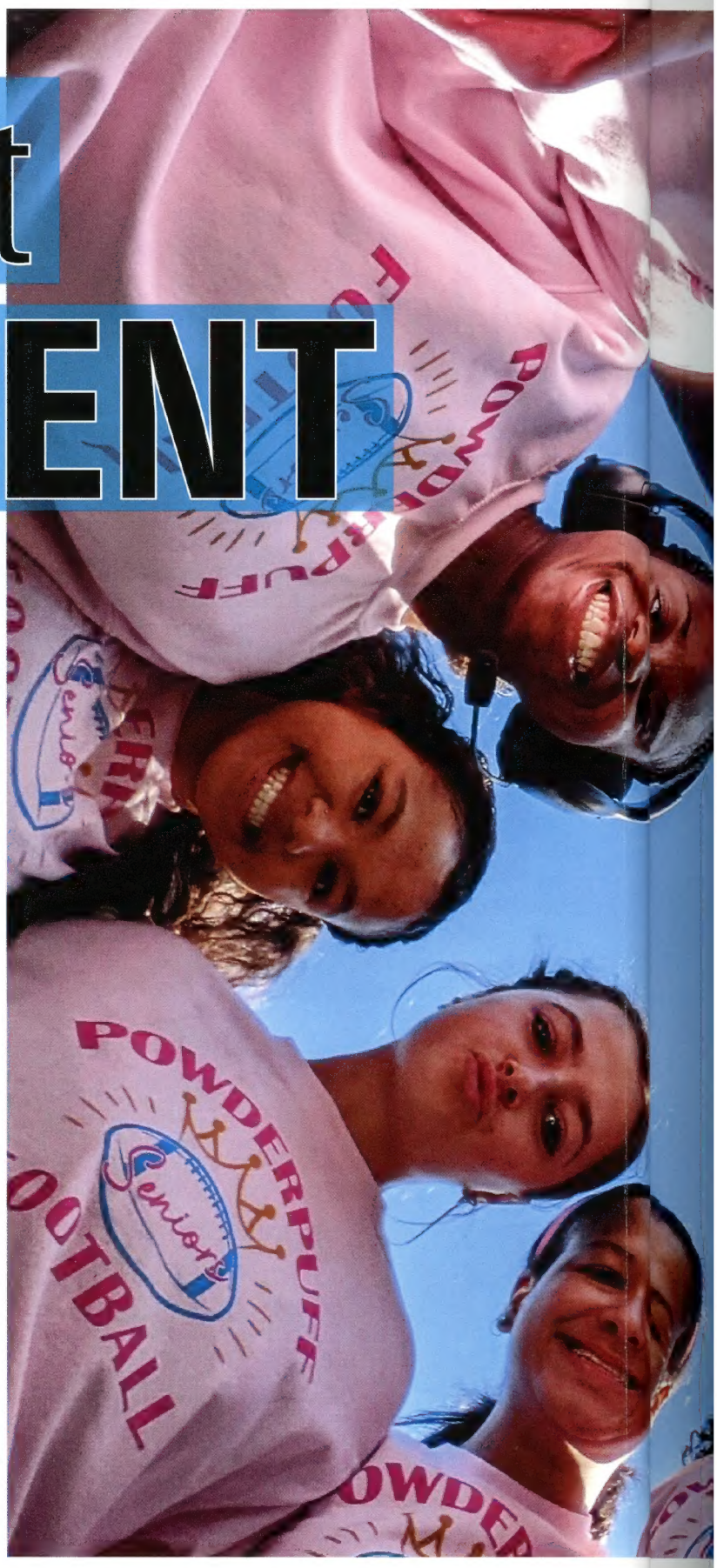
one last MOMENT

It's a bittersweet goodbye for most. You might be ready to say goodbye, or you might be holding on to the last few memories of high school. The last tackle, cheer, cross over the finish line, performance, test, or bell. Whatever memories you might hold of your high school experience, they have shaped you into the person you are today.

Unlike most high school experiences, our story was a little different. A long spring break turned into a world-wide shutdown freshman year. The next few years of high school would be ones we would have to persevere through, and we did just that.

In August of 2022, we are now ready to take on our senior year. Maybe for some us, this is our first experience of going to a football game or joining a club. We unite together, despite the challenges.

Senior year- we enjoy one last moment as one class before we leave the Rock.



POWDERPUFF
POWDERPUFF
POWDERPUFF

Maryrose Abuke
Connor Adner
Sura Ahdulmunen
Terrmell Akers
Jesus Alba
Jauntae Allen
Mauriana Almore

Danycia Altemus
Jasmin Alva-Perez
Ashton Anderson
Dameon Anderson
Julian Anderson
Mariah Anderson
Peyton Anderson

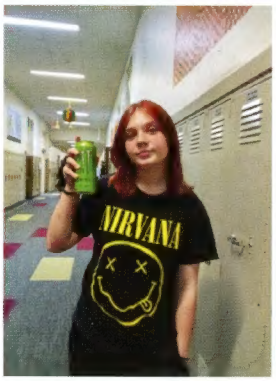
Daxon Ashpaugh
Aimerance Askeji
Cameron Atkinson
Natalie Avila
Edward Awour Kur
Naabwe Babocha
Braeden Baker

Dominic Baker
Tyler Barbee
Anjilika Barikzay
Cade Barnes
Sergio Barrientos
Aleo Battie
Samuel Baugous

Energizing the Class of '23

"Alani's Rocket Pop Energy tastes like an explosion of cherry."
- Dylan James

"The Salted Caramel Coffee Monster doesn't taste like acid, compared to other energy drinks, and reminds me of coffee I used to drink as a child."
- Deaken Golz



"I like the Ultra Paradise Monster the most because of the design on the can, and it has a great tropical flavor!"
- Madalynn Maxey

"Bang Rainbow Unicorn is my favorite because of the tangy fruit flavor it has, and it keeps me awake all day!"
- Mahiela Hewitt

"Ultra Watermelon Monster is a taste of my childhood, since I grew up eating a lot of watermelon."
- Makenzie Terry

Erriea Bea
Colin Benisch
Jace Bennett
Ethan Bergheger
James Blew
Jayden Bomelyn
Emilee Borkhardt

Jake Brandt
Alysa Braud
Quonterrion Brooks
Maliyah Brose
Nicolas Brown
Michael Brummit
Zenniphyr Bullock

Quinci Bumgarner
Javiah Butler
Misa Byobe
Aniae Carapia
MaKylie Carey
Milijiah Carpenter
Denise Carr

Edgar Carrillo
Alexis Carroll
Cesar Casco
Saul Castaneda
Maricela Churchill
Sky Ciesielczyk
Anthony Cimarrusti

STEP AHEAD INTO THE FUTURE

"I chose to graduate early so I could start gaining college credits, as well as start the next chapter of my life. Graduating early allows me to achieve my goals, and go after my aspirations in a time frame that fits my pace more comfortably."
- Ella Nolan

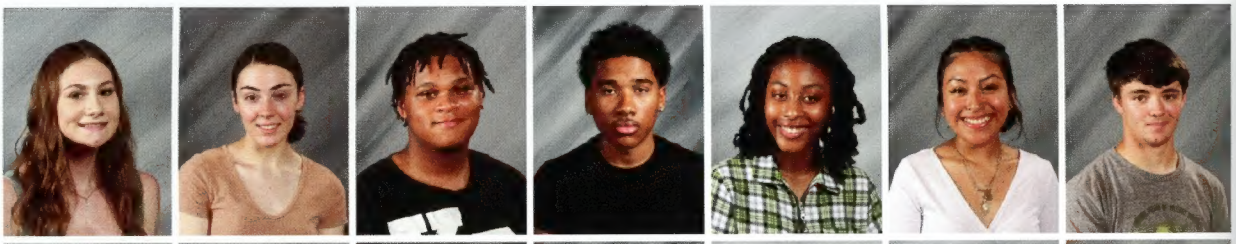
"I decided to graduate early so I could get started with my art career sooner, and build my portfolio. Graduating early allows me to have more time adjusting to college life. I plan to start taking the steps to art school during that time."
- Chanel Colvin

"I'd like to graduate early so I can get a head start on college. I plan to use the time I'd usually be into second semester to get a full time job to help pay for college."
- Natalee Smith

"I'm graduating early so I can start focusing on selling my artwork. I'd like to use my time that I'd normally be in second semester to focus more on making new art pieces."
- Savannah Lundquist

"I'm graduating early because I joined the Army National Guard. I completed basic training the summer before my senior year. After I graduate, I have to complete Advanced Individual Training before I start college in the fall."
- Kaiya McKinley

Alexia Clark
Miranda Clark
Kiesel Clay
Branden Colvin
Chanel Colvin
Viviana Contreras-Villagomez
Matthew Cook



Thomas Cook
Devin Cookson
Chloe Cooper
Makalia Crawford
Edie Crayne
Carter Cupp
Vix Dang

Law Dee
Evan DeFauw
Andrew DeMarlie
Mariela DeMeyer
Stevie Dempsey
Lilyana DeRudder
Brie Dickinson

Ava Dietz
Stephen Dillender
Nevaeh Dore
Bridget Duncan
Antoine Ebambe
JoZiah Edwards
Alexis Engels

Morgan Engholm
Caitlin Eves
Jullian Fabian
Aidan Fiers
Cameron Figgs
Kendrick Freeman
Lauren Gant

One Last Tradition

"One tradition that I am looking forward to is Homecoming Week. I've been participating in Spirit Week since elementary school. I've always loved going to the Homecoming game, and I'm really excited for the dance itself. I am also on Homecoming Court this year, which makes it all so much more exciting."

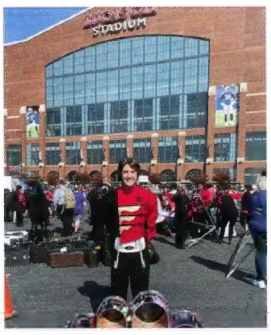
- Chloe Cooper

"Walking into the football field with the team behind me."

- Keller Mathews

"Going to Homecoming one last time."

- Natalie Pothoven



"I am excited to visit Indianapolis one last time to finish my Marching Band season at BOA."

- Nate Gottcent

"Running out to the 'Fight Song' for my last girls basketball game."

- Mariyah McQueen

Diana Garcia
Edmund Garcia
Tatum Garrett
Caden Garrison
Eh Gay
Kameron Gay
Kershaun Gay

Nay Ler Gay
Nekeyhi Gay
Tevin Gay
Mizero Gerald
For Give
Nathaniel Gottcent
Shanyah Graham

Madison Greenwood
Vaida Gunasheva
Corbin Gustafson
Connie Gutierrez
Landon Hamilton
Nina Hamilton
Brennan Hampton

Secret Hampton
Ella Hansen
Lucas Hansen
Taleigha Hansen
Andrew Harker
Kiley Harrell
Shawn Harrison

Aspen Harvey
Ali Hatem
Gale Hauskins
Riley Hawotte
DeMarco Hearn
Bailey Hecker
Lynzie Heggen

A Bad Case of SENIORITIS

"Knowing that this is my last year, and even though senioritis is very real, we won't see each other again, with people going off to college."
- Janelle Kagee

"I get past senioritis because I look forward to my welding class."
- Benjamin Oliver

"Major help through senioritis has been McDonald's and my air pods."
- Jazmin Lopez

"I come because I'm just trying to graduate, and get my diploma to make my parents proud."
- Dustin Moreno

"I've already done it this long. I might as well finish strong."
- Madelyn Maidak

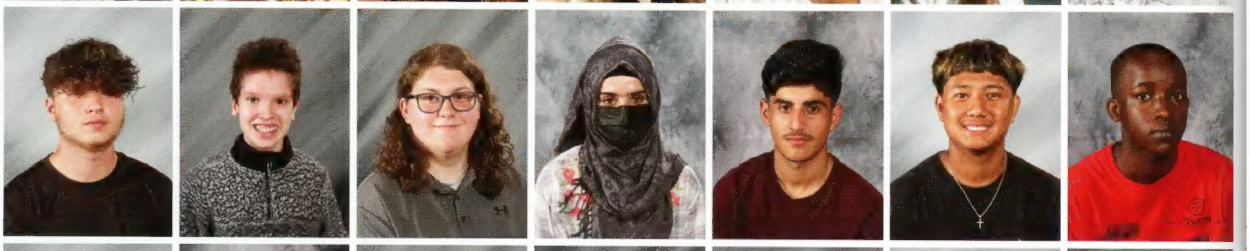
Aidan Henderson
Nihyeva Henderson
Nathan Hendrickx Mahiela
Hewitt-Bolden
Andrea Hodonou
Spencer Holliday
Frank Holmes

Ryan Holtan
Jambrea Hooks
McKenzie Houston
Baw Htoo
Lay Htoo
New Year Htoo
November Htoo

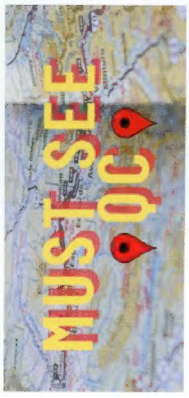
Paw She Htoo
Kyleigh Hughes
Octavis Isom
Lamarian Jackson
Dylan James
Ta'Miah Jamison
Niklaus Janssen

Emma Jasper
Niyitunga Jeanvier
Alyce Jett-Ryan
Kaylee Johnson
Riley Jones
Janelle Kagee
Kizumgu Karimu

Kaiden Karzin
Mary Keen
Jacob Kern
Karshma Khalaqi
Zamir Khalaqi
Di Khu
Arafati Kizungu



Austin Kowalik
Klae Kpor
Aiyanna Lacey
Isaiah Lambert-Lannen
Jocelyn Larsen
Jaydah Lee
Nathan Lee



Sunset Park
"You can just drive along, and enjoy the view, or go up to the towers, and watch the sunset."
Di Sae Khu, 12th Grade

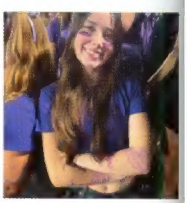
Little Rock Gem Shop
"I love gems, crystals, and the atmosphere."
Gavin Quinones, 12th Grade

Centennial Bridge at Night
"It's an iconic view when you come to the Quad Cities."
Moo Soe, 12th Grade

174 Bridge Walkway
"Especially while the sun is setting, the sky and river look so pretty."
Mari Churchill, 12th Grade

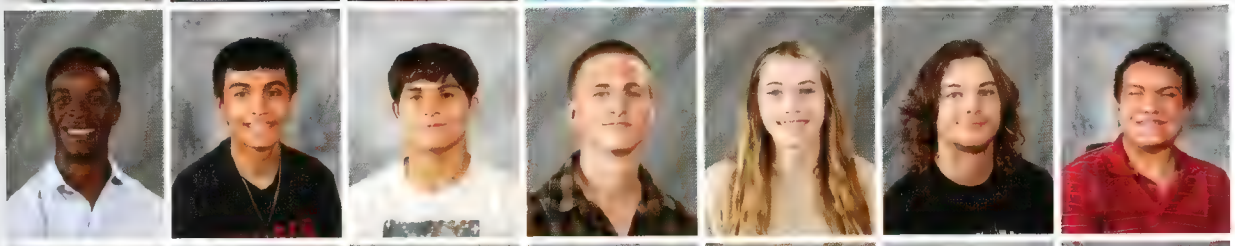
Rock Island Botanical Center
"The Botanical Center has an assortment of flowers and plants that you usually wouldn't see on a day to day basis. It's really pretty, and a good place to take pictures."
Jennah Smock, 12th Grade

Miss Phay's Cafe
"It's a really good place to eat, and the atmosphere there is great. It's a great place to eat with your friends and family."
MaKylie Carey, 12th Grade

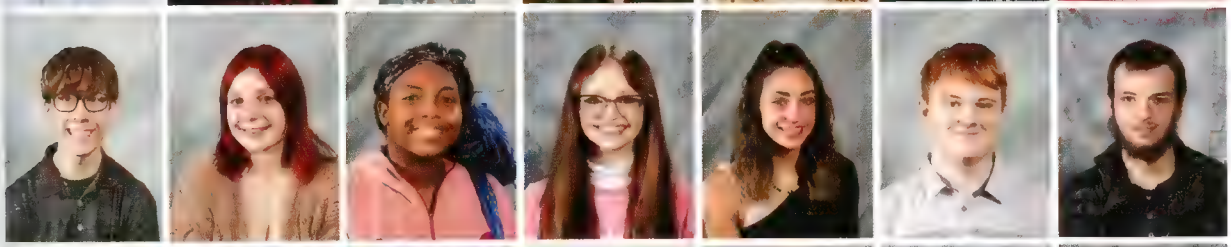


Ntiebuwayo Leya
Niyubuntu Lionel
Alexandria Lipe
Jazmin Lopez
Juanita Lopez
Rafael Lopez
Ninel Lopez
Favela

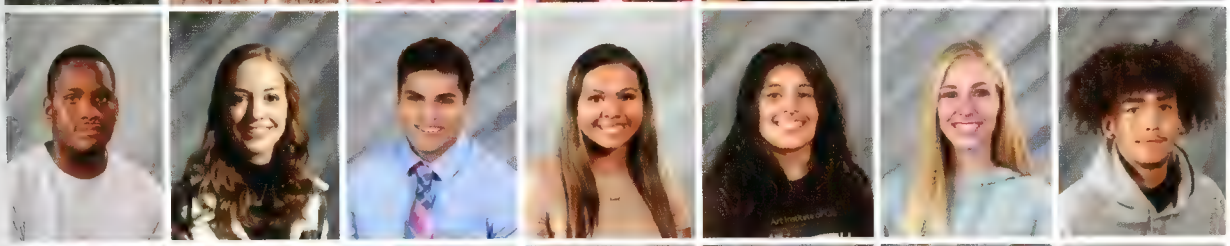
Bryce Lowry
Drake Lowry
Savannah Lundquist
Evan Lyon
Madelyn Maidak
Ayen Malual
Niang Man



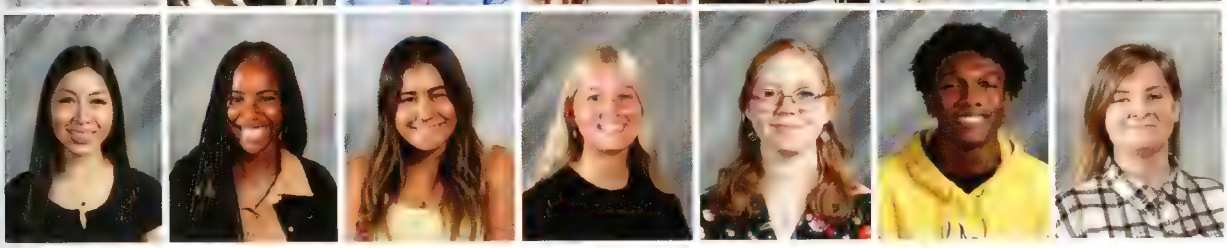
Kennedy Maombi
Hector Marceleno-Robles
Steven Marquez
Eian Marshall
Jenavieve Martel
Dylan Martin
Kyle Mata



Keller Mathews
Madalynn Maxey
LaShaya McAdams
Alexis McClay
Abie McCrady
Sullivan McDaniel
Joshua McDowell



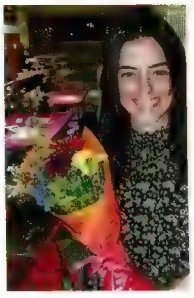
Israel McGowan
Kaiya McKinley
Noah McMeekan
Mariyah McQueen
Angeliq Medrano
Mackenzie Meirhaeghe
Kaylob Merkwan-Bennett



Montzerrat Meza-Pena
Navaeh Middlebrook
Sienna Mikaio
Camryn Milefchik
Kassandra Miller
LaJaden Miller
Abby Mills

Kyleigh Hughes

NOW



THEN

Charlea Pressly

NOW

THEN

Chloe Cooper

NOW

THEN

Senior Class of 2023

Now and Then

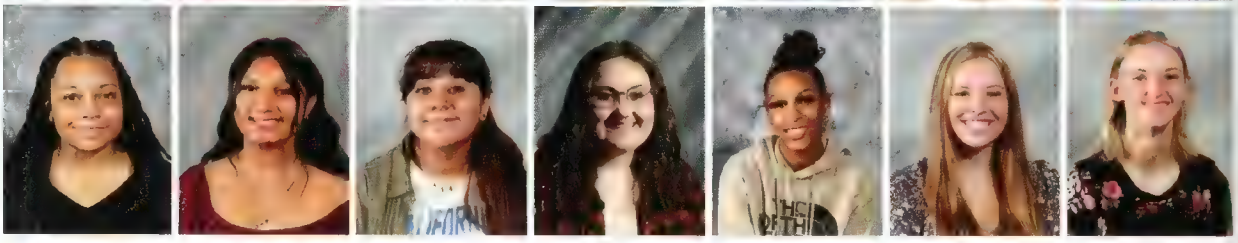
Olivia Mitchell
Shyaunna Mitchell
Kaden Moeding
Hser Ner Moo
Logan Moore
Dustin Moreno
Paris Morning

Jaron Morris
Logan Morris
Markell Morrison
Jordan Murray
Emily Myers
Cooper Nelson
Nyla Nelson

Derrius Nephew
Molly Nesseler
Aaron Nettles
Nelie Ninahazwe
Aline
Niyogusenga
Samuel Niyonkuru
Ella Nolan

Suzana Nyasa
Benjamin Oliver
Alejandro Pantoja
Marwa Parhar
Cristee Paw
Hsa Klee Paw
Dynetta Payne

Daysia Peniston
Maria Perez
Jannet
Perez-Vazquez
Grace Phares
Jaysha Phillips
Kaylee Plohr
Natalie Pothoven



Senior Sunrise

Rocky's Senior Class continued a fairly new tradition of gathering for the Senior Sunrise.

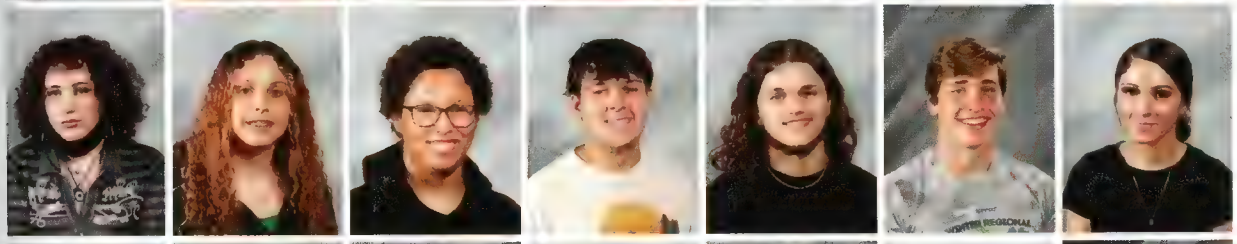
ONE LAST SUNRISE

"I feel like it's a time where everyone gets together one last time. It makes me feel excited to start off my senior year."
- Nina Hamilton

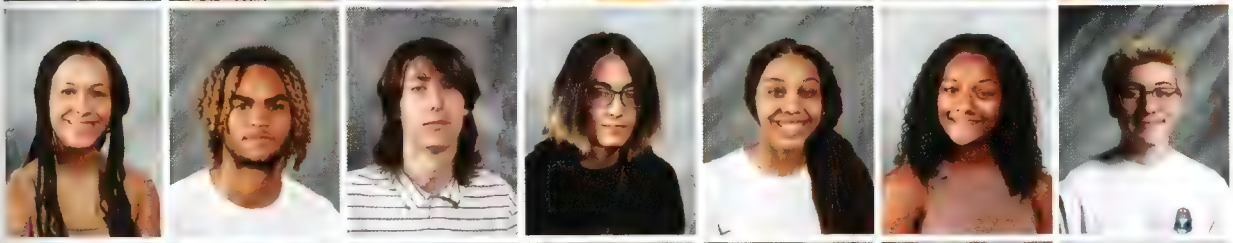
"Senior sunrise meant a lot, and made me feel like I was grown, waking up that early to watch the sunrise with my other senior classmates. It made me realize that we've come far."
- Kayla Rice

"It gives us the feeling that we're officially seniors. It made me feel emotional because we're now taking over the school, and I miss my friends."
- Denise Carr

Brandon Poulos
Charlea Pressly
Eva Pulfrey
Nee Pwe
Gavin Quinones
Fahima Rahimi
Cencer Ramirez



Jewels Raymond
Izabelle Redman
Mercedes Reed
Owen Reid
Brayden Reinhardt
Lucas Rettig
Yasenya Reyes



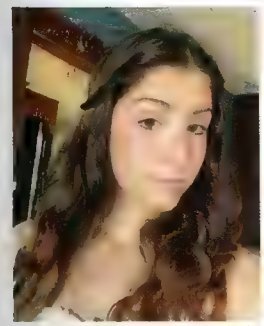
Kayla Rice
Tristian Richardson-Cole
Isaiah Richey Johary
Rivera-Martinez
Danee' Robinson
Nevaeh Robinson Cunningham
Jason Rockhold

Nehemiah Rodriguez
Rajet Rodriguez
Isabelle Roelens
Daivari Rogers
John Rohwer
Patience Rose
Madison Rosenthal

Felix Ross-Cespedes
Jude Rowell
Mykia Rudolph
Evan Ruiz
Joanna Salas
Aneesa Saldivar
Jailin Sanders-Mosby

ONE STEP AHEAD

[Seniors explain what it is like to take college level classes during their last year at Rocky.]



"I'm in 2 Black Hawk classes, and I'm enjoying them very much. They're a lot faster paced than a normal class, and they are a lot more strict with deadlines. I'm managing them by doing more than the minimum in each of the classes, in order to pass."
- Lynzie Heggen

"I've noticed that college credit classes are much easier to manage than regular high school classes. There isn't nearly as much daily work, and you get plenty of time to do your assessments. I think as long as you stay on top of your work and pay attention, you'll have a very easy time in those classes."
- Emma Jasper

"This is my first year taking a college credit class for welding, and in that class, I just take notes and finish assignments that the teachers give us to work on."
- Law Dee

"College credit classes inspire me more, and push me to do my work, and get good grades. I think I manage it well. I currently have all A's, and I'm taking 4 college credit classes, and managing them isn't as bad as I thought."
- Rafael Lopez

"College credit classes are definitely a little harder than my other classes that I am taking this year. But, I know they will put me ahead, in the end, which makes it worth it!
- Quinci Bumgarner

Nathan Schinckel
Connor Schweickhardt
Joshua Scott
Nahida Sekandari
Anette Serrato-Rivera
Petro Shabani
Reginald Shivmangal

Jaquez Smith
Natalee Smith
Xavier Smith
Ethan Smithson
Jennah Smock
Christ Soe
Eh Ler Soe

Moo Soe
Mu K Paw Soe
Emmily St Clair
Ava Stonehouse
Morghan Stoneking
Emma Stout
Seth Strandberg

K'mwee Su
Aizarion Sullivan-Lankford
Darviae Tate
Shar Mu Taw
Eden Taylor
Jeremiah Taylor-Johnson
Makenzie Terry

Asia Thomas
Evan Thompson
Javarion Thompson
Aidan Thurman
Darius Tongo
Kierian Trahan
Taireace Turner

Pursuing Their Passions

"I want to go into mechanical engineering because I really like math and problem solving. I can also make a good amount of money doing it."
- Madelyn Maidak

"Kinesiology- because I want to become an athletic trainer."
- Jaquez Smith

"I'm not sure yet, but I think something in sound and media design because I've always liked creating stuff for social media, and working on Canva to create different designs."
- Nathaniel Gottcent

"I would like to major in nursing, because I would like to become a children's nurse."
- Denise Carr

"I want to major in sports medicine to become an athletic trainer."
- Maricela Churchill

Ashton Unley
Godelive Uwezo
Alijah Vallejo
Samuel Valverde
Isabel Varela
Cristian Velasco
Thanya Velazquez

Alexia Velazquez
Fred Venable
Halie Viernow
Avery Voigt
Haley Waffle
Khu Wah
Robert Walter

Kyle Westerfield
Kylee Whan
Olivia Wiese
Ashanti Williams
John Williamson
Triston Willoughby
Tiarra Winters Bland

Kaden Witt
Amiyah Woods
DesMond Woodson
Annastasia Wright
Maxwell Zahner
Joshua Zetina

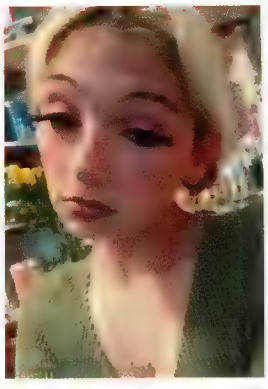
Next Steps to Success

"Illinois State has a really beautiful campus. The staff is nice, and the students are supportive. It looks like a nice place to continue my studies."
- Brandon Poulos

"I want to go to Black Hawk College to major in business, and then become a real estate agent."
- Emily Myers

"I want to go to St. Ambrose or the University of Minnesota for nursing!"
- Camryn Milefchik

"I want to go to Black Hawk for nursing."
- Lynzie Heggen

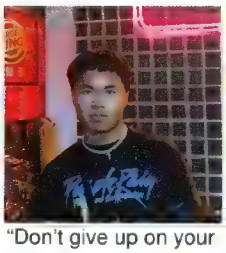


"My plan is to go to cosmetology school in Ames!"
- Zenniphyr Bullock

SENIOR QUOTES

"It's a Tesla Thing."

Aidan Henderson



"Don't give up on your dreams. Keep sleeping."
- Unknown

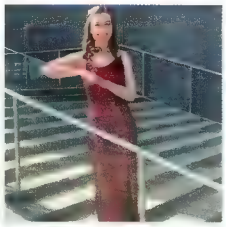
Law Dee

"All's well that ends well."
-Taylor Swift

MaKylie Carey

"I have never been more stressed out in my life."
- Castiel

Alysa Braud



"That's what."
- She

Ella Hansen

"I just showed up, without a map or a compass, and at some point, you have to make a choice ... about who you are and what you want."
- Rue

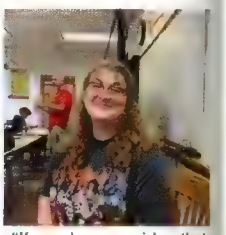
Jordan Murray

"Walk by faith, not by sight."
-Unknown

Aline Niyogusenga

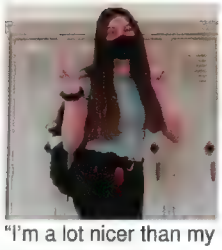
"You never know what tomorrow will bring, so enjoy every day like it's your last."
- Miggie

Mahiela Hewitt-Bolden



"If you have an idea that you genuinely think is great, don't let some idiot talk you out of it."
- Stan Lee

Jennah Smock



"I'm a lot nicer than my 'walking to class face', I promise."

Bailey Hecker

"Don't be afraid to live a little. We have all the time in the world to work, but not enough time to enjoy ourselves. Life is too short to care about what others think; you only live once. So, make the most out of it, and say, 'Yes' to everything."
- Unknown

Amiyah Woods

"No obstacle is too big to overcome, from being thrown 10ft in the air, throwing a grenade, to medical school #cheerleaderto soldiertodoctor"

Kaiya McKinley

"BTW... I'm the better Churchill, not Alex!"

Mari Churchill

"It turns out, life isn't a puzzle that can be solved one time, and it's done. You wake up every day, and solve it again."
- Chidi Anadnoye

Alexis Engels

"We didn't realize we were making memories. We just knew we were having fun."
-Unknown

Mackenzie Meirhaeghe

":)"
- Smile More

Nee Pwe

"Ravioli, ravioli, give me the diplomioli!"

Kiley Harrell

"Dear freshman me, we made it... somehow."

Nelie Ninahazwhe

"McQUEEN is my last name for a reason! #Ilovemyschool"

Mariyah McQueen

"Work hard to get good, then work harder to get better."
- Jose Mourinho

Di Khu

PEBBLES

To

ROCKS

Natalee Smith

Bryce Lowry

Evan Lyon

Aidan Henderson

Kaiya McKinley

Mari Churchill

Nate Gottcent

Ella Nolan

Camryn Milefchik

Kenzie Meirhaeghe

Alexis Carroll

Jaquez Smith

Edie Crayne

John Rohwer

Ben Oliver

Chanel Colvin

Carter Cupp

Halie Viernow

Kylee Whan

Emma Jasper

Ava Dietz

Nina Hamilton

Angeliq Medrano

Grace Phares

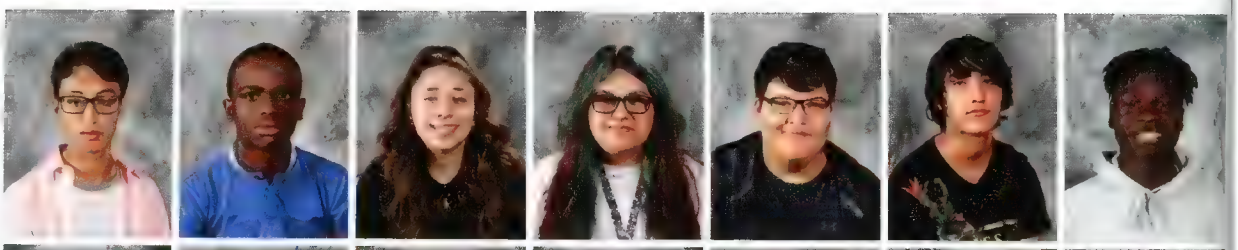
our hardest MOMENT

Junior year is one that many recognize to be about trial and error. Those currently in it, and those who have been through it, remember the year as one that is challenging. Amidst the challenges, many will fondly reminisce on the lessons learned, memories made, and the introduction to their upperclassman years at Rock Island High School.

As Juniors are moving into 11th grade, many feel a newfound power and confidence. Many start to feel comfortable, and find a pace that is suitable for oneself. A lot of new privileges that were not available before are seemingly unlocked and ready to be explored. Driving, AP classes, a first prom, first jobs, college possibilities and scholarship eligibility are all among the lists of exciting opportunities juniors are able to dive into.

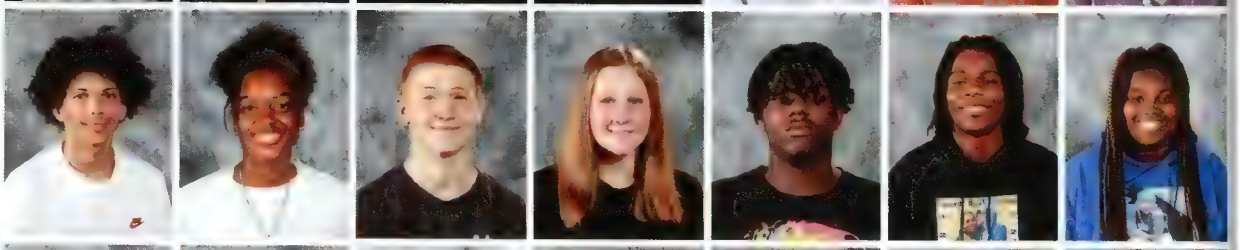
As Juniors, we take pride in being the next class after our current Seniors to graduate from Rock Island High School. Junior year may be a lot, but it is full of plenty of personal milestones we are eager to experience.

Salvador Abarca
Kir Abodhan
Giselle Aceviz
Maria Aguilar
Marcelino Aguilera
Rasul Ahmed
Ntinyegezwa
Aidan



Jose Alba
Gabriel Albarran
Mohammed Al
Fahad
Maryam Alhamdan
Kamlete Alimasi
Ali Al Janabi
Israa Al Janabi

Joseph Allen
Kyra Allen
Brendon Anderson
Brenna Anderson
Camoryae Anderson
Jacobian Anderson
Shakeada Anderson

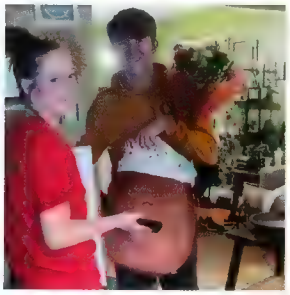


Markeisha Atwater
Marquise Atwater
Meli Awazi
Fidelia Awoudi
David Axnix
Nyota Bahininwa
Alyssa Balandran

Chastin Barker
Ja'ija Barnum
Hailey Becker
Presley Behrens
Mpawenimana
Bella
Erica
Bell-Mangrum
Isabella
Belshause-Pickslay

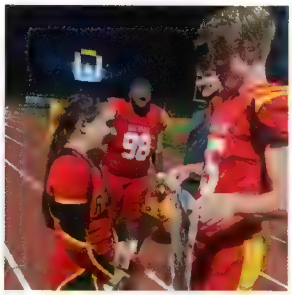
WILL YOU ROCK HOMECOMING WITH ME?

Rocky's Juniors continued the tradition of asking their special someones to Homecoming in a creative way!



Tyler Spence and Halle Bobb (Juniors), and all her favorite things, according to Spence.

Gaby Gonzalez and Payten Bunch (Juniors). He says, "She jokes about being smarter than me, so I thought I would give her this one."



After winning vs. Alleman, Lucas Shadden decided to ask Jade Gasper with a decorative sign he thought she would appreciate.

Mariyah McQueen (Senior) and Kyle LaMonte (Junior). Kyle says he was just, "Shooting his shot."

Jackson Bennett
Daianna Biswell
Halle Bobb
Addison Bomelyn
Kal Boswell
Andrew Bourdeaux
Mina Boyer

Harrison Braddy
Jett Brandt
Nininahazwe Brigitte
Aidan Brokaw
Michael Brose
Christopher Brown
Jonathan Brown

Joseph Brown
Joshua Brown
Katelyn Brown
Kylen Brozovich
Niyongabo Bucumi
Sabrina Bufford
Payten Bunch

Karine Burnett
Javen Butler
Veronica Caballero
Jacob Cantu
Jayden Caraveo
Jayda Carlin
Ethan Carls

Alexander Carnahan
Angel Carranza
Delaney Carroll
DaNaijah Cartwright
Marley Casselman
Kiefer Chandler
Shaylea Childress

Taking THE STAGE

Kylen Brozovich does community theater through the Center for Living Arts in downtown Rock Island. He states he does theater, "Because it's a way to express myself or perform, and get the feelings out that I may tuck away, and not get to express too often." He's been involved in this program for about five years, and has been involved in many productions, including "Rent", "Something Rotten", and "Chicago". His favorite, so far, has been "Rent" because the story was great, he liked the character he played, and the production brought everyone together in the way that it portrayed everything. One of Brozovich's favorite memories is all the good friends he's made. Of these friends that he's made, Joy Kitterman stuck out by making a positive impact in his life. "She's just really funny and uplifting, and all that," Brozovich said of Kitterman.

Neiman
Childs-Johnson
Elena Cisneros
Hunter Coakley
Robvasha
Coleman
Leah Conner
Lailony Cook
Matthew Coon

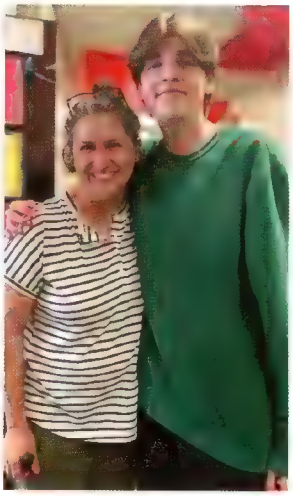
Mykayla Cooper
Juan Cordova
Myracle Craig
Samuel Crandall
Cesar
Cruz-Aguilera
Carmelo
Cunningham
Nickolus
Cunningham

Miya Davis
Eh L Ber Day
Vivian Decker
Alexander Dee
Mia DelaRosa
Amelia Dennis
Haiven Desadier

Avery Dickens
Drake Dickey
Conner Dilulio
Ntiruvakure Dinye
Guillermo
Dominguez
Irakoze Dorcas
Zachery Draper

IMPACTFUL INSTRUCTORS

Lexy Hayes-
"Mr. Eli. He's the kindest teacher I've ever had, and has always done his best to help all of his students succeed, and do their best in school."
Mr. Eli is the German Foreign Language teacher



Egan Westmorland-
"At Rocky, the teacher that had an impact on me would probably be Mrs. Foster. In her English class, I felt as if I was able to actually learn something. She made sure we understood our work, and she also helped us out a lot when we needed it. She also was a teacher who understood what was going on in our lives. She was able to help out as much as she could, and made sure we felt happy and safe in her classroom."
Mrs. Foster is a Sophomore Honors English teacher

Gracie Scheper-
"Ms. Denton is my favorite teacher because she reassured me that I was doing well in school. She encouraged me, and she is very understanding. Plus, she is really funny."
Ms. Denton is a Sophomore Honors English teacher

Hassan Hatem-
"Mrs. Anderson would always teach deeper lessons, such as the sandwich lesson: people take a bite out of the struggles in their lives- she meant she is always going to be there for me to talk to. For me, that made me love being in her class. She gave great advice, overall."
Mrs. Anderson is the Freshman Biology and Earth Science teacher

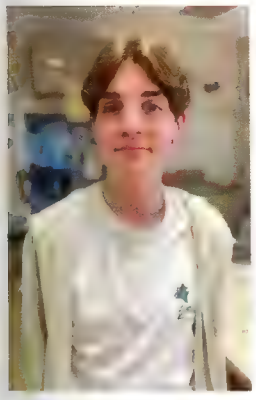
Josephine Driskill
Xavier Duster
Dominick Eckmann-Allred
Kailyn Eichelberger
Corbyn Ellis
Mackenzie Elsey
Presence Erodiance

Maria Escamilla-Garcia
Alaina Esposito
Eva Essman
Nevaeh Faison
Daryl Farmer
Mackenzie Farrance
Lucette Feigley

Evan Ferkel
Meara Fineran
Niyogushima Fiston
Avery Flactiff
Karimah Flowers
Honor Ford
Aiden Frantz

Joshua Galeana
Julian Gaona
Estevan Garcia
Natalia Garcia
Xavior Garza
Gavin Gasper
Jade Gasper

QC'S BEST Where do Rocky juniors suggest the most?



"Energy drinks here are very popular, and everyone gets it from places like Atomic. It gives people something to connect over."
- Egan Westmorland

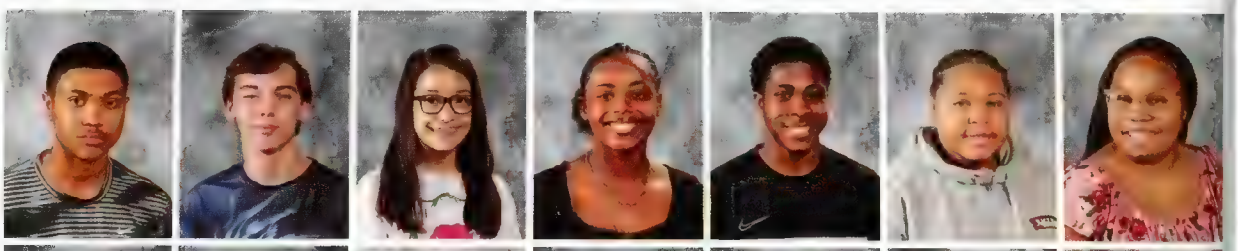
"Sometimes, the theater at the Village of East Davenport has cool local bands."
- Lauren Groene

"I say Schwiebert Park because it's really nice there when you can catch a moment alone, and enjoy the view! I recommend using the telescope there."
- Amalia Serrano

"Pizza and Subs. I think they have some of the best food I've had, and it's my go to place when eating out."
- Zach McCall

"Igor's, because it is a very unique, family owned business."
-MJ Hummel

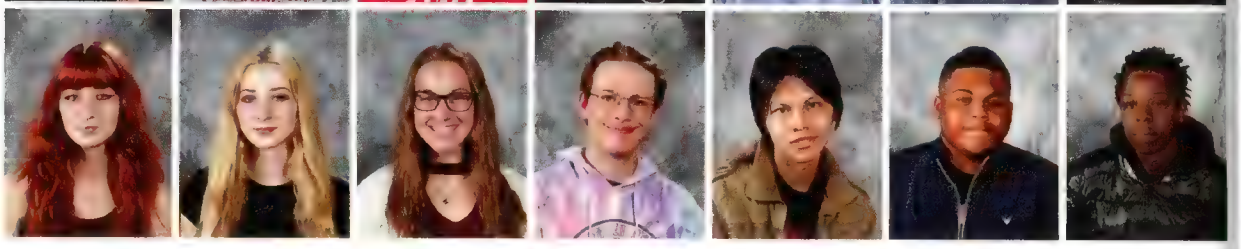
Angelo Gay
Drake Gean
Gabriella Gonzalez
Amiyah Govain
Dar'Terius Grady
Gabrielle Grandberry
Nayeli Graves



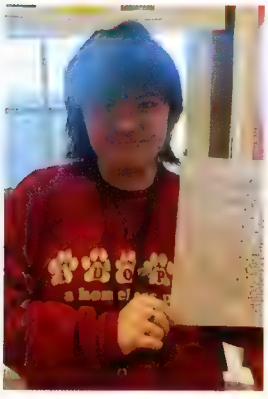
Dillon Gray
Justice Gregory
La'Mark Griffith
Lauren Groene
Haley Gruner
Madjid Gunashev
Eli Gustafson

Luke Gustafson
Isaiah Gutierrez
Sanaa Hampton
Owen Hansen
Eric Hantz
Zafirah Hassan
Hassan Hatem

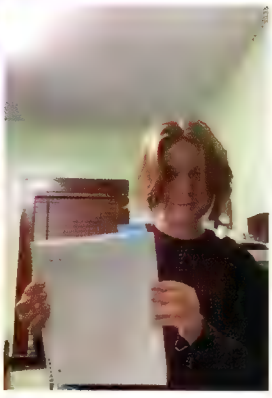
Alexis Hayes
Lillian Hayes
Madelynn Hayes
Michael Hays
Ku Say He
Courtellus Hicks
Ja'Marius Higgins



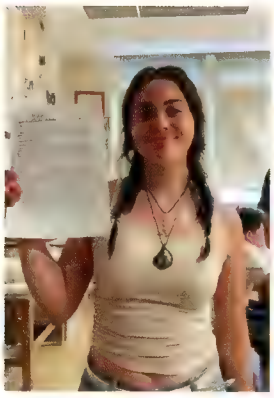
LET'S ROCK



"I am taking AP English Language and Composition because I like English. It's one of my strong suits. It also gives me an opportunity to challenge myself."
- Lyn Kress



"I am in AP Statistics. I chose it because I think statistics is the only important sounding form of math."
- MJ Hummel



"I'm in AP Biology, which I chose to both challenge myself and just to try out. I like what the course follows and what we learn in there."
- Amalia Serrano

"I chose AP Art because art is a personal interest of mine."
- Norah Wright

"I chose AP English Language and Composition because I had high enough grades, and I thought I would enjoy it."
- Aria Sulouff

Bee Hinton
Roxanne Hobert
John Holland
Thomas Honeycutt
O-Mirrah Horne
Jessamine Hounkpati
Jamariona Houston

TJ Houston
Gabriella Howard
Wah Hsee
Dah Gay Htoo
Hae Peh Htoo
Say Htoo
Jaydon Hudson

Austin Huff
MJ Hummel
Aryanna Hunter
Derrick Jabbah Alexander
Jackson
Daniel Jackson
Dezmund Jackson

Elisha Jackson
Mark Jackson
Marnaysha Jackson
Sean-Anthony Jackson
Kaitlyn Jacoby
Dominic James
Terrianna Jamison

Glazing Over Ceramics At Rocky

A Teachable Moment

"For me, Mrs. Taylor inspires me every day to be a better version of myself, and is constantly reminding me that regardless of the hurtful things people can say or do, none of that can change who I am as a person."
- Mykayla Cooper

"One teacher that has made a positive impact on me is Ms. Denton. She is an amazing teacher, who always makes class fun. I enjoyed having her as my teacher. She also helped me improve in English class by a massive amount. I'm really glad she was my teacher."
- Maryam Alhamdan

"Mr. Campbell. He always has a positive attitude, and he makes sure you're okay."
- Devyn Jones

"I would say Mrs. Huges for IJAG. I don't have her this year, but she still checks on me, and makes sure all of her students, including me, are understanding school, and helps whenever she can. She's one of the nicest people I've met, and one of the best teachers I have had."
- JP Putnam

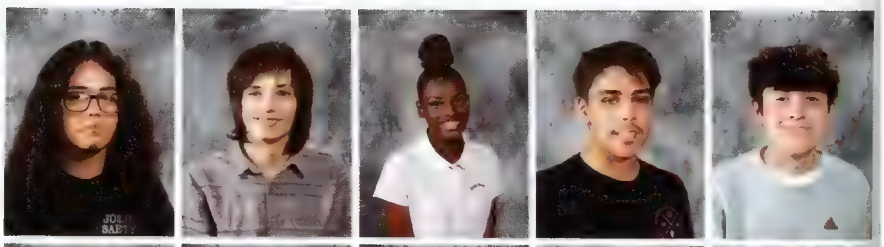
"Mrs. Young, because she can always tell if something is wrong, and she checks on me. She tries her best to put me in a good mood. She will always find a way to get me in a better mood."
- Alaina Kress

"Mrs. Resch. I used to hate to read, and she helps me find books I would enjoy."
-Tyler Spence

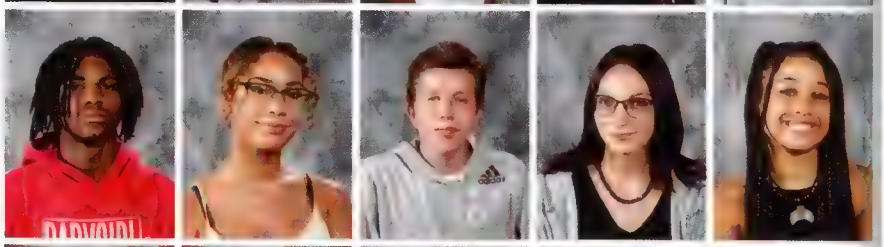
"My algebra teacher, Mrs. Bohling has made a positive impact on me. She is the only teacher who recognizes my struggles in math, and is willing to work with me until I understand. Mrs. Bohling has been a reminder that I am capable, when I think I'm not."
- Sirenity Morales

"One teacher who had a positive impact on me is Mrs. Arnold. Just by the way she taught, and her strictness when it came to getting work done. She pushed me to work harder, and stay focused. Also, to be positive about things, and try to view situations from a positive perspective."
- Michael Mitchell

Jose Jaramillo
Tryston Jared
Zawadi Jeanine
Julian Jimenez
Mateo Jimenez



Dorian Johnson
Mahogani Johnson
Brady Johnston
Devyn Jones
Jada Jones



Kaitlyn Jones
Deborah Kalonda
Dajanique Kelley
Jeremiah Kennedy
Nehemiah Kennedy

Andrew Kerno
Hailey Kirk
Joy Kitterman
Stantrel Knight
Leo Kopplin

Hsa Hsee Kpaw
Alaina Kress
Madelyn Kress
Kaydon Krup
Eh Kaw Ku

Chad LaMay
Kyle LaMonte
Tavien Lankford
Lani Laster
Landon Lawver-Andrews

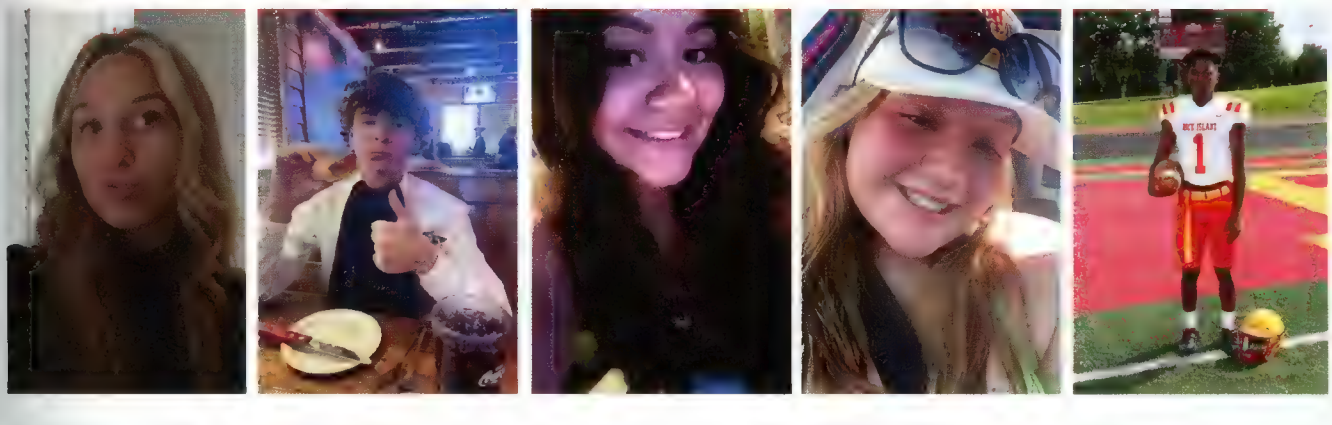
Lennon Lawver-Andrews
JaTaya Lee
Carly LeMaster
Mason Lensing
Riley Levan

Lakavion Lewis-Glass
Caleb Lindsey
Alex Lloyd
Juan Lopez
Julian Lopez
Hudson Love
Bahati Lubembela

Mwabo Lwebula
Emily Maess
Aseel Mahdi
Asa Mahn
Sean Manary
Ogiste Maombi
Manuel Marceleno

Brayden Marshall
Avante Martin
Toshanne Martin
Eliana Martinez
Noe Martinez
Kylee Maston
Almir Matias

FANNING OUT WITH THE CLASS OF 2024



"University of Illinois Volleyball because I have always wanted to go to that school, and I have gone to some of their games on and off since 6th grade."
- Mallory Timm

"The Cubs. I was born into being a Cubs fan, and I was always told to never be a bandwagon, so I've been sticking with the Cubs. Next year is our year, for sure."
- Owen Hansen

"Nebraska volleyball. They are ranked third in the nation, so far. I looked up to a lot of them as a young athlete."
- Amanda Mumma

"My favorite sports team is probably the St. Louis Cardinals because baseball is my favorite sport to watch, and I love the environment of the stadium, and the city, in general."
- Lexie Walker

"My favorite sports team is the Memphis Grizzlies because of Ja Morant."
- Niyogushima Fiston

SISTER CITY SHADOWS

Eight juniors explain what it's like to have students from St. Meinrad's Gymnasium in Rottenburg, Germany follow them around Rocky for the exchange program.

"I'd say it's cool. It's fun seeing how they react to some of the teachers, and their quirks, and how the teachers react to the German students."

Bee Hinton, 11

"It's been fun. It's been a new experience because I get to meet new people, and just witnessing how welcoming and nice these students are."

Alex Jackson, 11

"It's very fun. I love showing them around the different classes. It's funny seeing what's different for them between German school and American school. They learn languages a lot earlier, so they're a lot more fluent, so I haven't had to even use any of my German because she is very knowledgeable on English."

Riley Levan, 11

"It's been fun. They're really friendly, and it seems like some of the students enjoy coming, and experiencing school, like some of the students that may have been there already, but they give me a different perspective."

Mark Jackson, 11

"It's kind of exciting to see how they live life, and show them how we live life, and the different cultures. I'm happy that I can do it!"

Chloe Turner, 11

"I find it super fun. It's really interesting."

Norah Wright, 11

"It's really cool having an exchange student! I love having Hanna with me during the school day, and going to cross country practice together after school. It's something I've gotten used to, and am going to miss once she is gone."

Mary Stockdale, 11

Chit Maung
Gillian Maxey
Zachary McCall
Nadia McCaw
Leia McConchie

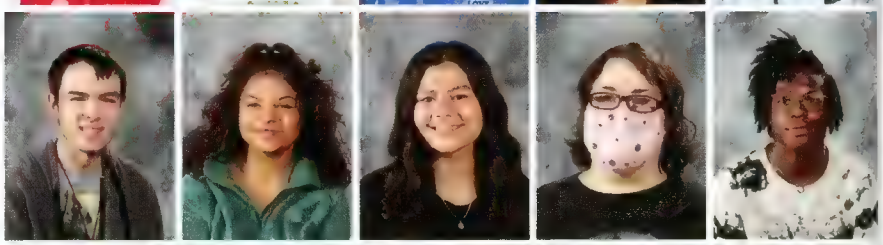
Laticia McCray
Brown
Shannon McFate
Daniel McGhee
Kade McKillip
Alayna McKinley

Alec McKinney
Cain McNanna
Elijah McRae
Owen Michaels
Lumumba
Mkambilwa

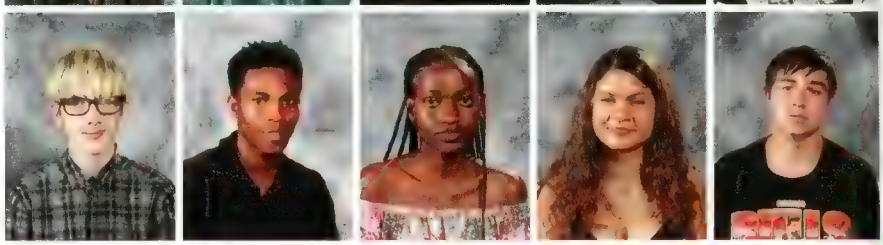
Ella Mlekush
Asahela Montanez
Eh Kler Moo
Lah Set Kpru Moo
Ta Ear Paw Moo

Taw Moo
Shalom Moore
Julian Morales
Sirenity Morales
William Morris

Brayden Moseley
Mariah Mowery
Amanda Mumma
Kyleigh Munson
Rashaad
Muskeyvalley



Jaden Nadeau
Isack Ndarama
Sandrine
Nduwimana
J'Zaeya Neal
Jaydan Neaveill



Melanie Nebinger
LaDerricka Nephew
Alesia Nicholson
Man Nuam
Isiah Nunn
Queen Nyinawabavuna
Faith O'Brien

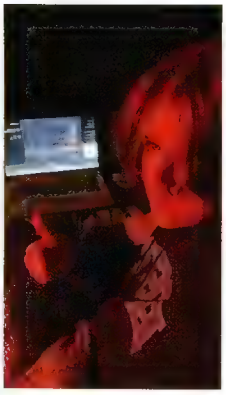
Larry Olivier
Amare Overton
Makiyla Owens
Cecilia Padilla
Abbigail Parr
Eh Ksaw Paw
Eh Say Paw

Ka Paw
Lah Hser Paw
Kaelem Payton
Jamie Pearson
Nevaeh Pedraza
Emma Penn
Ely Perez

Esteban Perez
Terrace Perkins
Riley Porter
Rickiyla Pugh-Childs
Jayden Putnam
Wazir Qubadi
Alyssa Quinones

Junior Study Snacks

"Goldfish. I really love Goldfish. And, PMS from Atomic."
- Lauren Groene



"Frito's and Ultra Paradise Monster are both really good."
- MJ Hummel

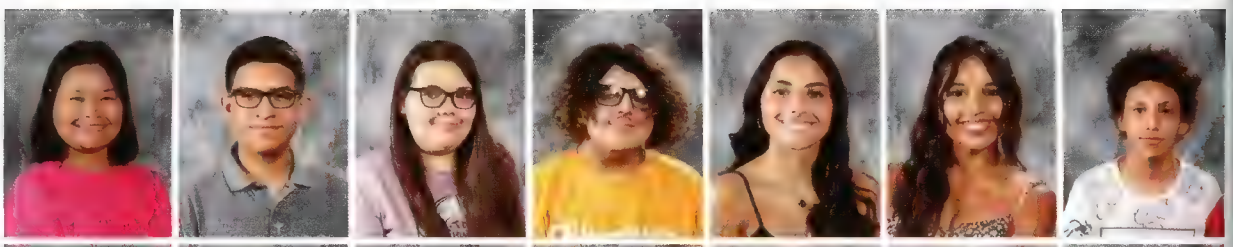
"My favorite drink is probably the TLC from Awake, and my favorite snack is probably popcorn."
- Cheyeane Stanley

"Lava Lamp with white chocolate from Atomic, and fries and cheese sauce from Chick Fil' A!"
- Bailey Sholl

"My favorite food is chicken wings, and my favorite drink is Dr. Pepper or milk."
- Ella Mlekush

"My favorite food is sea salt popcorn, and my favorite drink is Sprite."
- Joy Kitterman

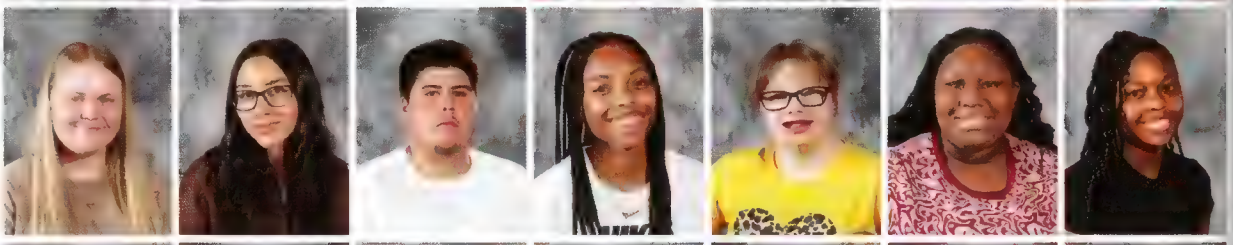
Smay Rai
Julio Ramirez
Leticia Ramirez
Leonardo Rangel
Analice Rea
Cienna Reed
Paul Reed



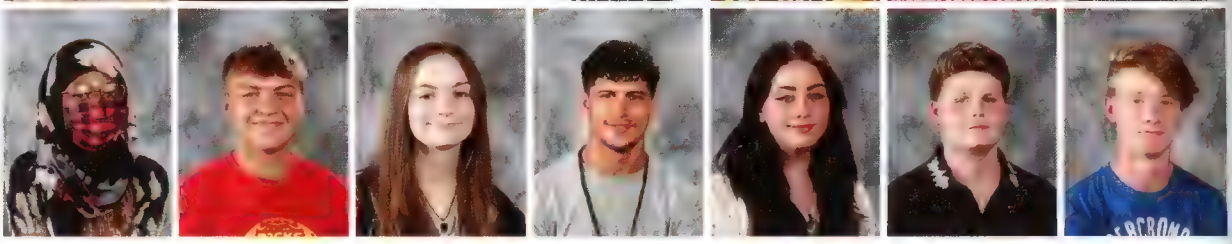
Eli Reedy
Autumn Reese
Ian Regur
Gabriel Richardson
Tayven Richardson
Yolonda Richardson
Oliana Richey

Mauricio Rivera-Martinez
Rebeca Robles
Jesse Rockhold
Cheyenne Rodriguez
Yair Rodriguez
Angel Rodriguez
Jacobo
David Rogers

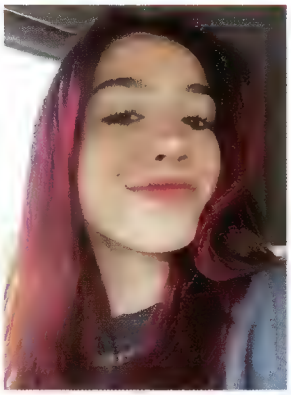
Ava Rohr
Jimena Romero-Escamilla
Alex Romo
Aaliyah Ross
Autumn Rubingh
Khadija Sakho
Rachel Saleh



Hawa Salim
Isaiah Samuelson
Gracie Scheper
Nawidullah Sekandari
Amalia Serrano
DeAndrew Severs
Lucas Shadden

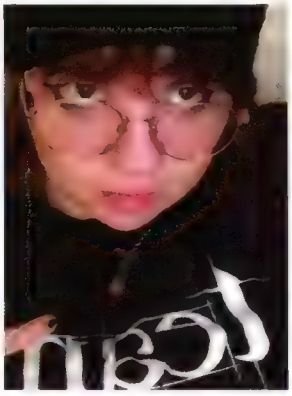


LESSONS IN art from juniors.



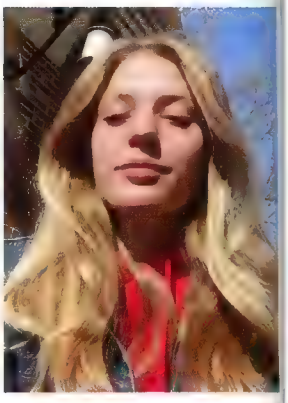
"Failing at something new just means you have room to grow. It doesn't mean you should quit."
- Delaney Carroll

"I love being able to create something by myself, and create a whole world practically in my head. And, it's so nice to connect with others, too."
- Lyn Kress



"Having the ability to create something from my mind is honestly an incredible thing."
- Eli Reedy

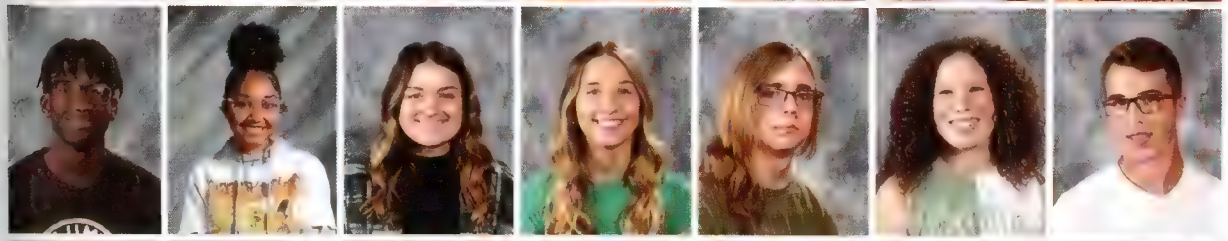
"It's a huge part of my life. I've always been artistic. It's something I can do when I'm stressed or overwhelmed with school or sports. I express myself through vibrant colors and unique designs."
- Norah Wright



Bailey Sholl
Ashlynn Simmons
Brendan Smith
Christian Smith
Htee Soe
Preston Sonnenberg
Risala Soulemane

Cecelia Sountris
Tyler Spence
Spencer Staggs
Hunter St Amand
Alivia Stanley
Cheyeane Stanley
Mersades St Clair

Nicolas Stephens
Asia Stern
Ke'Erica Stewart
Mary Stockdale
Autumn Stone
Aria Sulouff
Ma'Liyah Taylor



Jesse Thomas
Raeonna Thomas
Lydia Thomer
Mallory Timm
Sebastian Tuominen Pawlik
Chloe Turner
Daryn Untiedt

Xavier Valdez-Delrio
Emmalee VanThournout
Eric Vazquez Ashley
Vazquez-Chavarria
Jorge Vega
Yulisa Vega Romo
Hunter Verdeyen

WE WILL REMEMBER

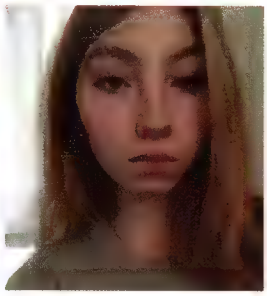
Topics that students think will be reminisced about at their 15-year high school reunion

"I think we will probably talk about different styles that became popular during our time in school, such as heavily ripped jeans."

- Gracie Scheper

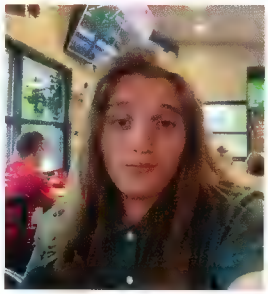
"Something I think we'll talk about is the football game memorial we did for my nephew, Alphonso. Everyone showed up wearing purple, and we released balloons. We even ended up winning that game by a lot."

- Kaliyah Woods



"The energy drink obsession. Everyone gets them so much, and they're cheap, but imagine how much money is accumulated? And, there's so many places for them, too, like, it's just insane."

- Presley Behrens

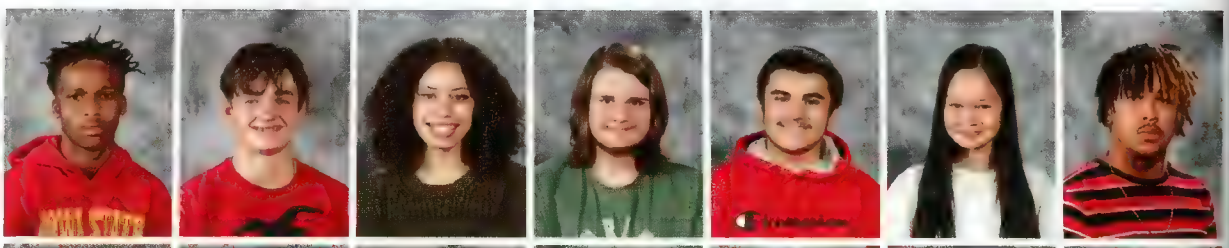


"I feel like the Queen's death will be reminisced upon, mainly because it'll be a turning point for the world."

- Zach McCall

"The Homecoming Assemblies! Just the feeling of being able to leave school early, watching the Homecoming Court dance on the field, watching the cheerleaders do their performance, and listening to the choir! It's fun to me!"
- Ella Mlekush

Truth Vesey
Arek Viernow
Makayla Villarreal
David Viviani
Elijah Voorhis
Poe Dah Wah
De'Sean Waldron



Lexie Walker
Zavius Washington
Daveyon Wells
Nathan Welsh
Juan Westerfield-Casco
Egan Westmorland
James Westmorland

Josiah Weston
Makena Whitcanack
Skyler White
John Wilde
Parker Williams
Julius Willis
KayNiya Willoughby

Mayani Wilondja
LaTonyiah Wilson
Cody Wolf
Dayvon Woods
Kaliyah Woods
Maisy Woods
Norah Wright

Aaron Yoder
Sada Yonda
Kenedi Young
Alejandra Zetina

Sleep Well, Live Well

"I get roughly 8 hours or so of sleep each night."
- Alex Jackson

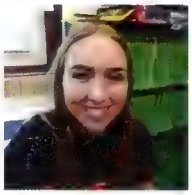
"I get 6-7 hours of sleep because I have a ton of homework to do, and, sometimes, I work during the week."
- Lailony Cook

"I get 6-7 hours of sleep because of sports and too much homework."
- Eva Essman

"About four hours. I have a hard time falling asleep due to stress."
- MJ Hummel

"I get roughly 5-6 hours of sleep every night, due to me working late and having homework to catch up on."
- Oliana Richey

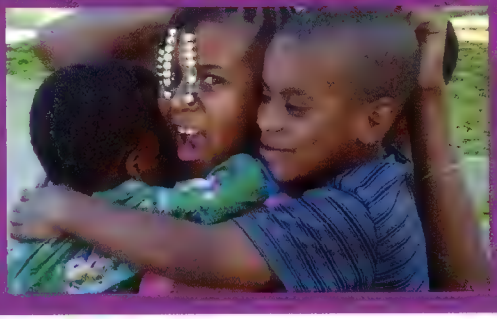
"I probably get around 6-7 hours of sleep. Most of the time, it's because of homework or late practices."
- Josephine Driskill



"I get anywhere between 4-6 hours of sleep because of too much homework, sports, and just overall, not having enough time."
- Man Nuam

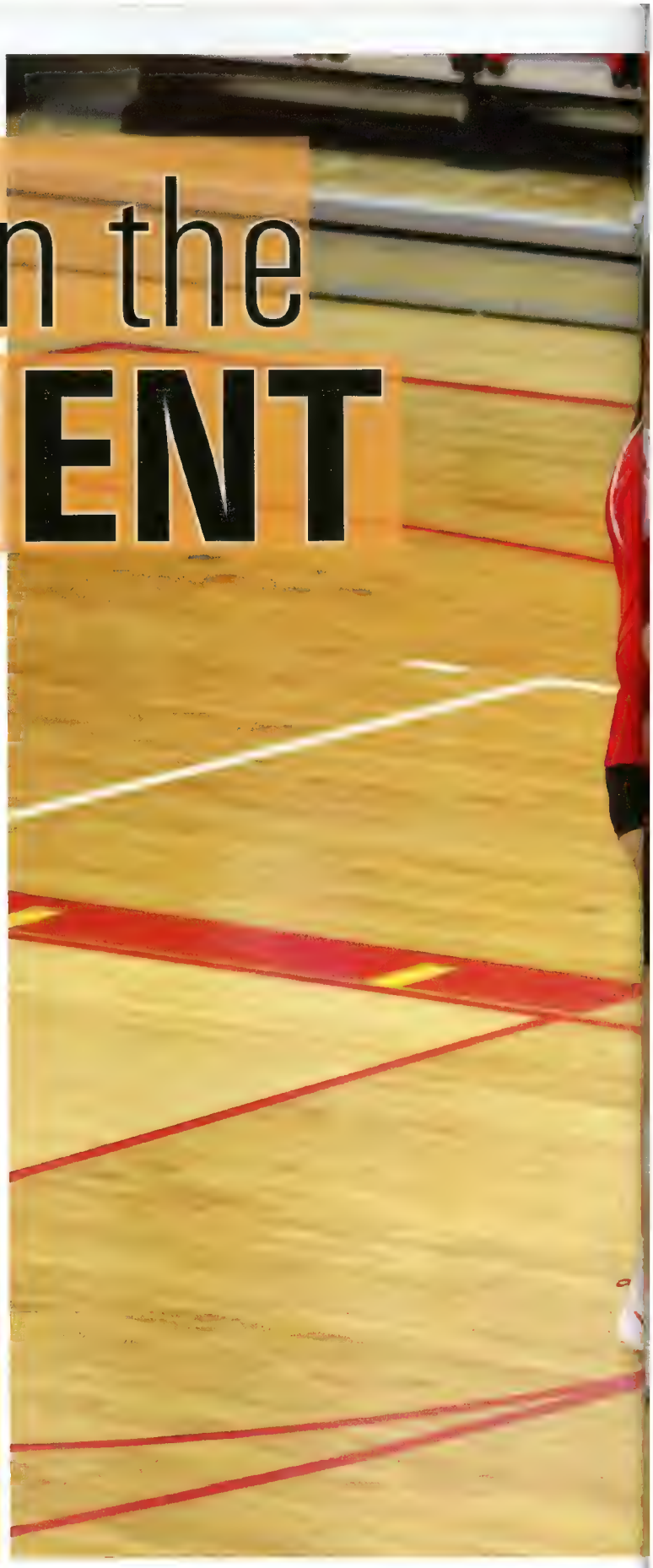
REMEMBERING...

Alphonso Puckett



JUNIOR STUDENT ATHLETES REPRESENT THE ROCK WITH PRIDE!

driven in the MOMENT



This year is a special moment for Sophomores. We went from being Freshmen, kids who had a hard time fitting in because we knew nothing about the school, to Sophomores, who now fit right in, and feel at home at the Rock.

One aspect of moving up a grade means more opportunities to take advantage of all Rocky has to offer. This means having a wider range of classes that we can take, like Chemistry, Journalism, and Ceramics.

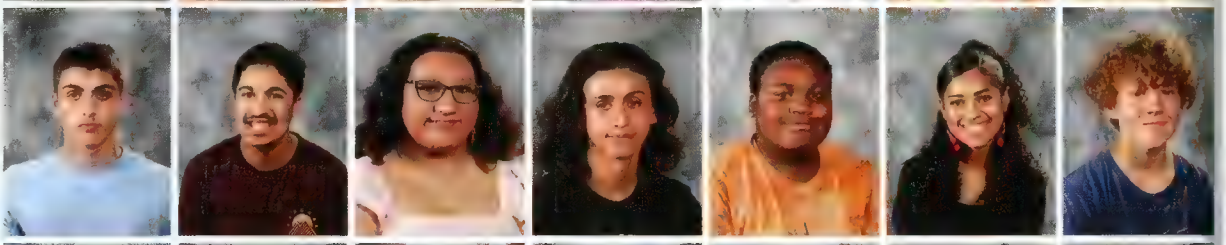
One of the biggest moments for Sophomores this year is driving. This one class might make us shed tears of joy from taking a big leap into becoming an adult, and gaining more freedom. Or, it could make us shed tears of sadness because of worry, as we head out on the road for the first time.

One trait of Sophomores is that we can, and we will persevere. We are driven in the moment of being Sophomores, both as new drivers, and taking on all that Rocky can offer.

20

Katelyn Adams
Elaina Adlfinger
Isabella Adner
Jordan Ahrens
Luis Albarran
Cristina Aleman
Hussein Alhamdan

Ali Aliev
Rishik Alla
Olivia-Ann Almanza
Rolando Almanza
Camron Anderson
Keziah Anderson
Ryley Anderson

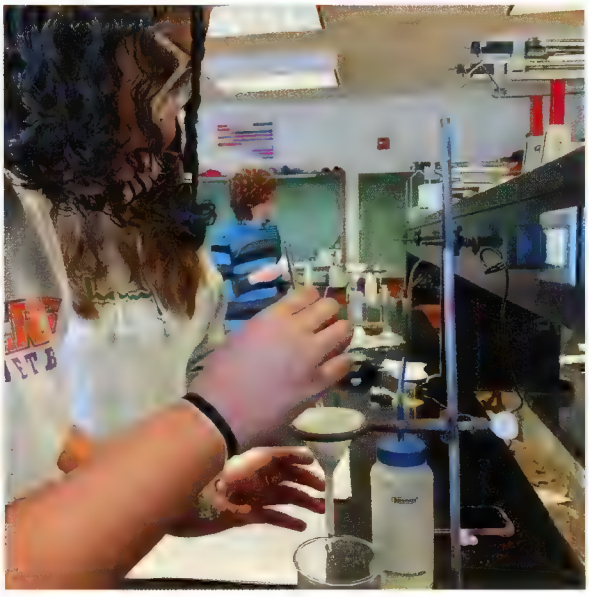


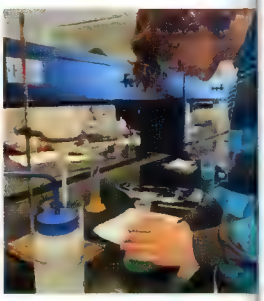
Alba Arellano
Kaily Armstrong
Luis Arredondo-Lopez
David Avila-Perez
Deng Awour Kur
la'yahh Ayyash
Ebubu Babocha

Vital Babwiriza
Ja'Neel Baltimore-Steward
Carson Banks
Bibi Barikzay
Karli Barker
Addison Barrell
Alejandro Barrera-Gandarias

Cory Beltran
Zane Benavidez
Annika Bergheger
Joslyn Bernal
Rehema Berthe
Francoise Betty
Kaylee Binion

LEARNING IN THE LAB





Cadeau Bisetsa
Puratee
Bogart-Pepper
Seraphine
Bonyema
Jorge Bravo Rios
Alexander Breiby

Joe Brooks
A'Keyla Brown
Sephannie Brown
Nickijah Bryant
Orion Bullock

Wyatt Bunch
De'Ja Burmeister
Ler Bwe
JJ Campbell
Austin Cantrell

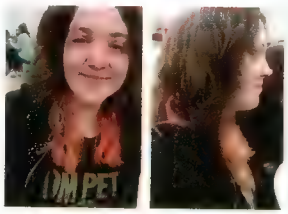
Xoey Cantu
Jesse Carapia
Marco Carapia
Anarie Carlton
Gage Carothers

Caleb Carpenter
Gunnar Carroll
Maddie Carroll
Tullis Cavins
Bukeneza
Cendrine

Aleah Cervantes
Cecilia Chavez
Taylor Chenoweth
Alexander
Churchill
Aaliyah Clark

Jae'Vion Clark
Grace Clevenger
Molly Cliff
Namarion
Coleman
Davonte Conner

My Hair And Me



"I like my hair because it's wavy and layered, and it's colorful."

- Stella Houk

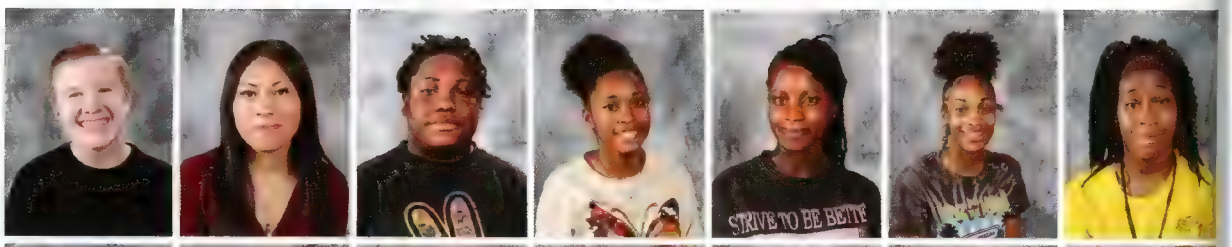
"I like my hair because I can style it in different ways, due to its length. And, I can donate it."

- Ywa Htoo

"I think what I love about my hair the most is its curls, and its natural highlights, which don't always show up."
- Daniel Hauskins

"I like my hair because I can do a lot of different hairstyles with it, and I also like my hair because it's pretty thick. Even though I complain about it, I secretly love my hair."
- Joslynn Henderson

Patrick Conner
Yasmin Contreras-Villagomez
JaMarion Cooke
JC-Leeyah Cooper
Niyonyishu Cornelio
Ja'Liyah Craig
Sydney Crawford

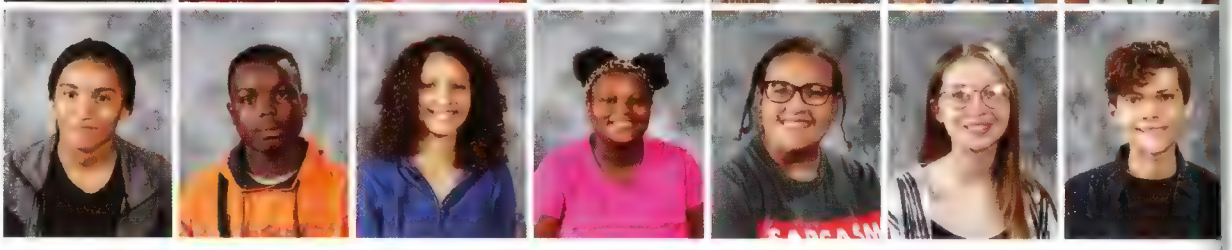


Zachery Cross
Brayden Crowe
Nathaniel Cruz-Oliveros
Chase Curry
Niyonyishu Daniel
Makyah Daniels
LaNina Daugherty

Max Davis
Myles Davis
Prince Davis
Jackson DeLeu
Todd Dennison
Dillion DePaepe
Natalee DeVoss

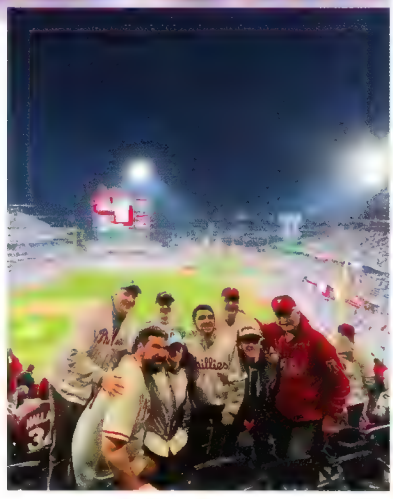
Andrew Dillin
Edward Dominguez
Aundrea Doss
Trace Downing
Allison Drish
Isaiss Duarte
Justice Dunbar

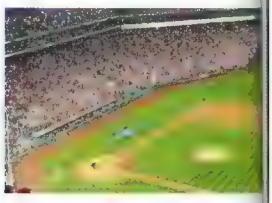
Isabella Dunford
Rogers Ebambe Jazimine Eckmann-Allred
Ronchelle Edwards
Christen Egan
Zoe Ehlers
Thom Elliott



Dancing On Our Own

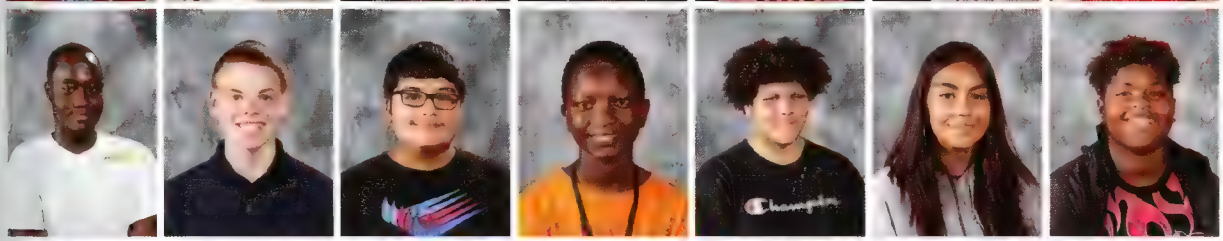
Rock Island sophomore, Elizabeth McCoy felt honored to attend Game 5 of the World Series. She and her family have been Phillies' fans for her whole life, with the tradition starting with her grandpa. He decided to become a "Phanatic", and passed on his love for the Philadelphia Phillies to the rest of his family. While watching the Phillies have a successful season is hopefully not a "once in a lifetime" opportunity, the chance to see them in person was definitely something McCoy and her family will always remember.





Gent'Ziyah Ellis
Remi Engeland
Jayden Erps
Murebereza Fabiola
Luundo Famiya
Joshua Farrance
Keyonte Farrow

Kaleb Faulkner
Travonna Ferguson
Noemi Figueroa-Salinas
Davontae Florence
La'Rontae Ford
Kale Foster
Dylan Frantz



Alexis Gahimbare
Colin Galbraith
David Gallardo
Aimable Ganza
Isaiah Garcia
Andrea Garcia-Gallegos
Avianna Gardner

Jaylin Gardner
V Jay Garrard
Jordohn Gillen
Essence Gilmore
Oliver Gisobizo
Aiden Glaski
Benjamin Goeh

Brayden Gorney
Lauren Gottcent
Bradley Grant
Gaheta Gratien
Riley Gray
Elizabeth Griffin
Alex Grypp

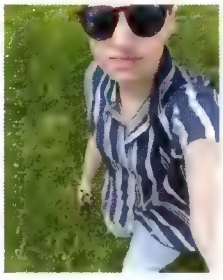
SOPHOMORE SWAG!

"I really just like to be myself, and express myself with different colors and different shoes."
Dreshawn Randolph

"I don't really think I have something that defines my style, or makes it unique. I think my style is very comfortable and casual."
Zoe Ehlers

"I dress in a way that makes me feel confident and good about myself, as well as choosing colors and styles that compliment me best."
Kylie Melchi

"My style is unique because everyone wants to dress like each other, while my style is whatever I feel most comfortable in. Sometimes, it's jeans and a shirt or button up, and other times, it could be sweats and a hoodie. Not everyone can just dress how they feel most comfortable."
Trin Sepulveda



"My style is unique because, as a heavier person, the things I wear are different from what people would expect me to wear. I have to be confident with myself, which is a struggle, so I find clothes that I think are cute and comfortable, but also make me feel like me."
Molly Cliff

"I wear what makes me feel happy. I like the way I look and feel when I'm in my own style."
Nyx King

Sophomores Look Back

"I would tell my freshman self that high school goes by fast."
Valerie Smith

"I would tell my freshman self- don't ever give up on anything."
Damian Lessard

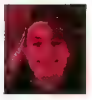
"I would tell my freshman self- you're gonna make friends and lose friends. Do not let it bother you."
Remi Engeland

"I would tell my freshman self to have fun, and to be more open minded."
Anocled Munezeru

"I would tell my freshman self that the right thing will come in time."
Jaida Thompson

"I would tell my freshman self to not worry about what other people think of you because this is the time you can really show who you are."
Cristina Aleman

"I would tell my freshman self that turning in work is like a rhythm. Once you get into it, you will pass."
DaMarie Terrell



"I would tell my freshman self to take notes and pay attention."
Hunter Mau

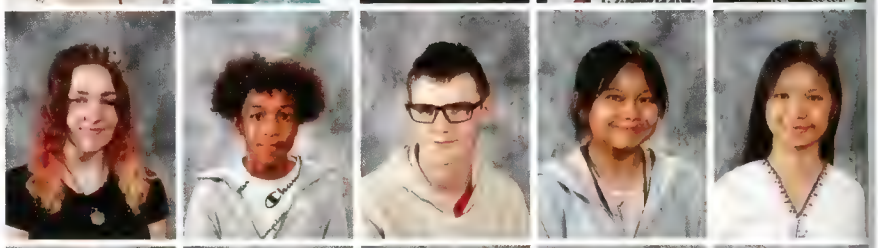
Noah Guy
Chase Hadley
Malaya Haley
Akyla Hall
Logan Harker

Chloe Harmon
Grace Hathaway
Daniel Hauskins
Reagan Hawotte
Lukas Heine

Joslynn Henderson
Rayna Henry
Faith Herington
Aiden Hill
Kamiya Hill

Mia Hixson
Grace Hodonou
Isaiah Horskins
Karsen Horton
Louis Hoteling

Stella Houk
Darien Howard
Timothy Howser
Moo Gay Htoo
Ywa Tar Hay Htoo



Benjamin Huisman
Nevaeh Hunter
Joselin Ibarra Valencia
Jospin Ibrahim
Oliver Itabelo

Amyah Jackson
Havionna Jackson
Ki'Leyah Jackson
Nadiya Jackson
Hannah James

Andre Jamison
Birdie Johnson
Dashawn Johnson
Zane Johnson
Zeppelin Johnson
Caydence Johnson-Scriver
Eliza Jolie

Aunah Jones
Mpawenimana Justin
Olivia Kargl
Harrison Kelley
Jessa Kelley
Itabelo Kenasi
Jozie Kerr

Fayaz Khalaqi
Lillian King
Nyx King
Brayden Kirzeder
Leah Kitterman
Asta Kizungu
Coltin Klossing

Joseph Kososki
Mu Phlay K'Tooe Soe
Kaitlyn Kutzman
Hser Mu La
Aiden Lannen
Jolena Lannen
Connor Latcham

Ja'Tia Lee
Yessenia Leos-Ochoa
Damian Lessard
Tavarias Lewis
Abbagale Lieber
Jonge Lims
Kalai Lioen

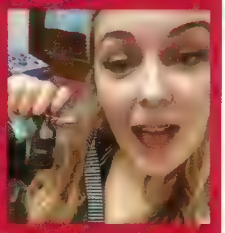
SOPHOMORES IN ACTION

First Destination

Beline Shukuru

"Whitey's, of course, to treat myself."

Jaida Thompson



"Probably to my grandparents because they're the ones paying for my car, so I'd probably go sit up at their house."

Nina Daugherty

"To get food from Famous Dave's."

Isabella Adner

"I would want to go to Starbucks because I feel bad that I make my mom go there with me, and now, she won't have to."

A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia
Kaitlyn Long
Richard Long
Jessica Lopez
Juanita Lopez

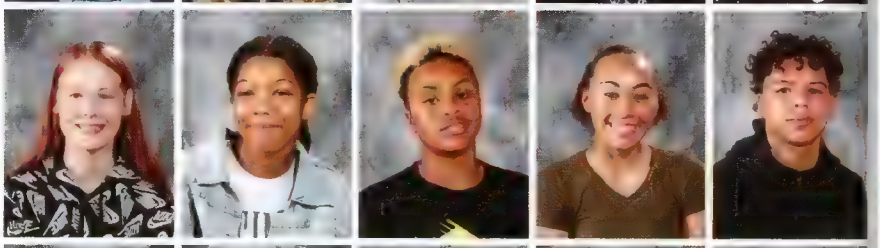
Natalie Lopez
Daisy Lucio
Jaxson Lydon
Harper Maloney
Leek Malual

Isabella Marceleno
Yadier Marceleno
Jillian Martin
Matthew Martin
Xylynn Martin

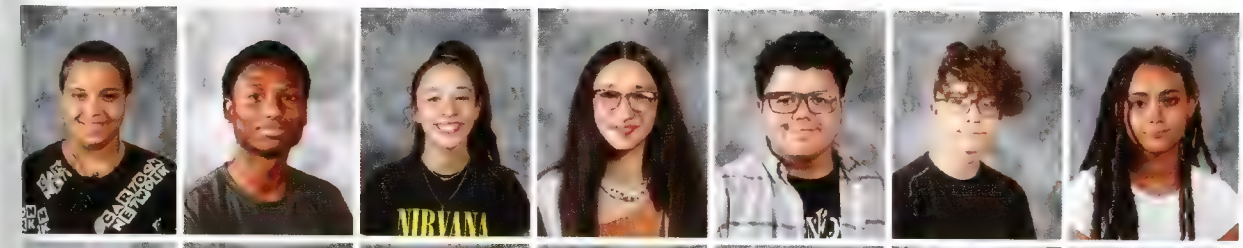
Kayla Mathews
Hunter Mau
Kevin Mayares
Dai Shaun McCaw
Alice McConchie

Elizabeth McCoy
Lillian McDaniel
Kamya McDuffy
Maddix McManus
Bella McNanna

Emma McNanna
Jaleeyah McNeal
Jamalaki McNeal
Nevaeh McQuay
Marcus McQueen



Maliyah McVay
Carlos Medrano-Mendoza
Kyleigha Mejia
Kylie Melchi
Karina Mendoza

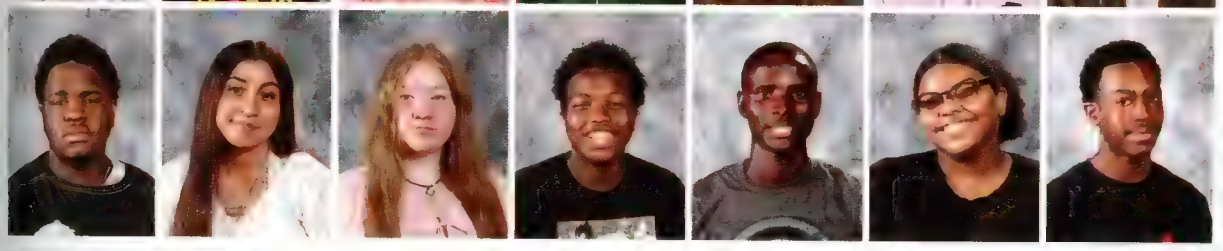


Amiya Merrill
Marcel Merritt
Abigayle Mildren
Gabrielle Mildren
Rilen Miller
Bruce Mills
Gianna Mills

Namira Mirzai
Abdul Mohammadi
Marhaba Mohammadi
Tawfiq Mohammadi
Justin Moline
Jose Montoya-Hernandez
Ku Ku Moo

Caden Moore
Tobi Moravetz
Ja'Unique Morgan
Maddix Morrison
Anocled Munezeru
Dulce Murillo-Mendoza
Jaliyah Murray

Bernard Musafiri
Masudi Mwanuke
Elijah Nadeau
September Naing
Alexis Nelson
Gavin Nelson
Landyn Nelson



Emmanuel Neville
Carla Nieto
Hope Nipper
Eric Niyomwungere
Niyonzima
Niyonzima
Angelina Nocentelli
Kyle Nombre

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM CAR?

"My dream car is a Rolls Royce Ghost because it is luxurious."

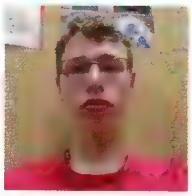
Chloe Harmon, Grade 10

"My dream car is a JDM drift car. It is a nice car, and it is my type of car."

DaMarie Terrell, Grade 10

"My dream car would have to be a white Mercedes Benz C300, because it's a car that I can ride around with my friends, while being in style."

Isabella Adner, Grade 10



"My dream car is a Ford E 150 Cargo Van because then, I would have room to drive everyone around."

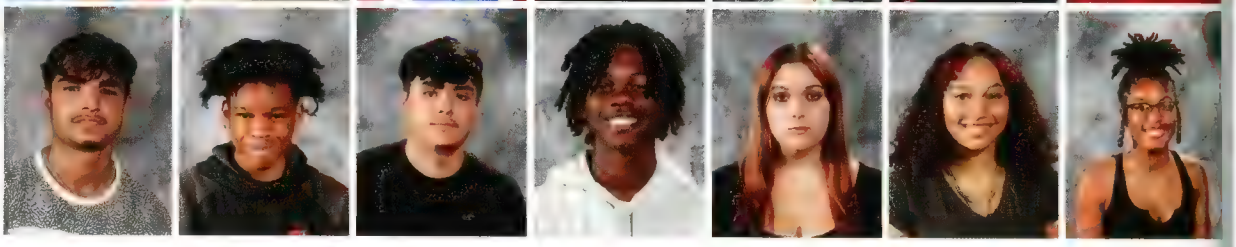
Tyler Whipple, Grade 10

Mohammad Nooristani
Morris Nunn
Machozi Nyassa
Emily O'Brien
Jake Osborn
Abigail Owens
Dylan Panick

Domonique Parrow
Poe Paw
Harley Payney
Christian Pearson
Gladys Perez
Juana Perez Morales
Grayson Perion

Keianna Pettis
Zee Phares
Eh Eh Poe
Brian Polanco-Guzman
S'Nya Pollard
Hangama Qubadi
Samir Qubadi

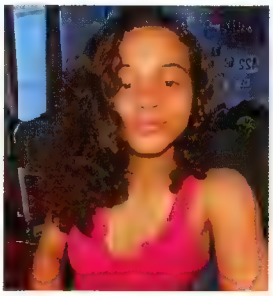
Aimal Rahmani
Ja'siah Rainer
Pedro Ramirez
Dreshawn Randolph
Lillian Reid
Breana Reymer
Layla Rice



Watch out, I'm driving here

"It's scary, at first, because I didn't want to drive, but now it's fun! And, I don't need my sister taking me everywhere now."
Maddie Carroll

"When I started driving, it was kind of hard, but then I got the hang of it after a couple of days of driving a lot."
Josh Farrance



"It's a new opportunity. I feel in control, knowing that my parents won't have to drive me places anymore. Learning to drive is fun!"
JJ Campbell

"It feels good to learn how to drive, so I'll be ready when I get my license. It will feel good when I'll be able to drive myself, instead of asking for rides."
Keyonte Farrow

"Learning how to drive allows me to see the responsibilities and freedom of getting behin the wheel. Other than that, I can't wait to be on the road."
Santana Smith

Lyric Rice
Elliott Richardson
Daniel Rivera
Milca Robles
Linda Rose
Amir Ross
DeShawn Rucker

Nevaeh Rucker
Amina Salim
Jose Salinas-Pelaez
Olivia Samuelson
Ku Say
Hanifullah Sekandari
Zarifullah Sekandari

TJ Sepulveda
Jerrilin Shadden
Khu Say Shee
Mylie Shook
Elizabeth Shorten
Beline Shukuru
Emalee Slayden

Logan Smith
Santana Smith
Valerie Smith
Hsa Soe
Bahati Songolo
Jesus Sosa
Logan Spawn

FASHION ESSENTIALS

What is one thing everyone should have in their closets?

#RHS

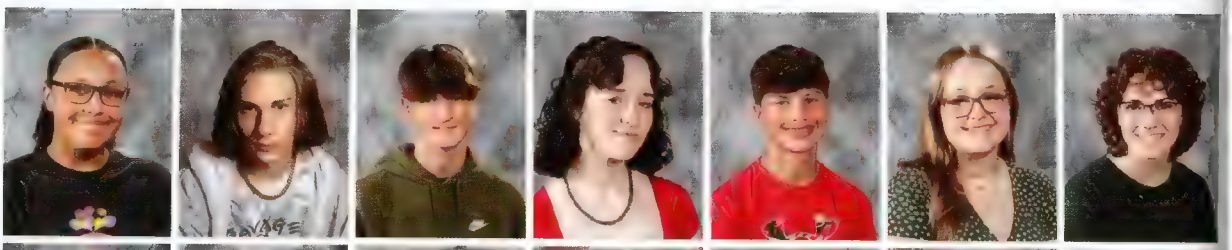
'I think everyone should have a clean white shirt because everyone looks good in white, and it matches everything.'
September Naing

"A purse, because it comes in handy when you want to put your phone, earbuds, lip balm, charger, and whatever else you would like to put in there, without having to carry it all."
Cristina Aleman

"Crewnecks!! I love, love, love crewnecks. They re so comfortable, and really cute with anything, no matter the weather.'
JJ Campbell

#RHS

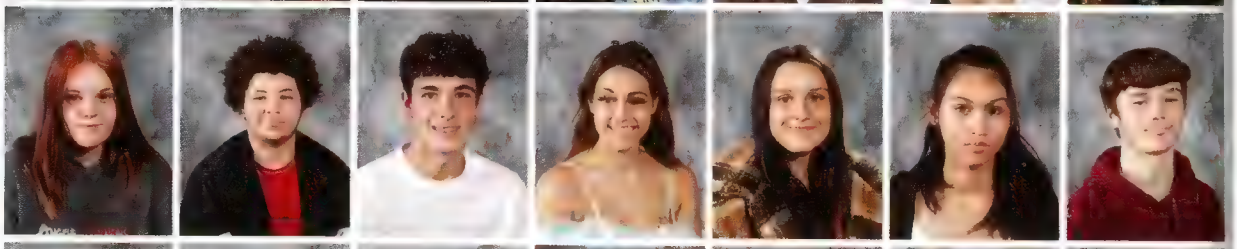
Ariyah Spoljoric
Jaicob Stalkfleet
Grant Stewart
Whitney Stivers
Merrick Stockwell
Skylar Stone
Sophia Stout



Ethan Street
Eh Su
Eh Tahe Ta
Paul Tabb
Lucien Tarnow
Amya Tate
Anthony Tem

DaMarie Terrell
Ryleigh Terry
Akeira Thomas
Cydney Thomas
Canyon Thompson
Jaida Thompson
Natalie Thompson

Payton Thompson
Jeremiah Thornton
Kyle Thrap
Kierstin Truschke
Harmony Umporowicz
Lineth Valverde
Kaleb Vancoillie



Christian Varela
Chauncey Vaughn-McBride
Riziki Venansia
Grace Vidmar
Josiah Wages
Davion Walker
Alexander Walls

Down The Road

One of the most exciting aspects of sophomore year is learning to drive. Sophomores explain what their first experiences driving were actually like.

Layla Rice
"I was a little nervous because of how fast they got us on the road, with us only being in the first week."

Chloe Harmon
"I'm exited to be driving on my own, as I took my Drivers Ed over the summer, and I got my license already. I think it's a good step into my freedom, and I'm happy in that I'm able to drive on my own."

Lyric Rice
"When I went on my first drive, I was a little nervous, but the driving instructors here are very understanding and calm."

Madison Carroll
"I was scared because my mom worked at the DMV, and would disown me if I was bad, because I would embarrass her coworkers and boss! But I passed, so we're good."

Xylynn Martin
"I feel scared to, since I haven't gotten my permit, but I am going to get that soon, and it's something that comes with maturing, so it's a mixed emotion."

Madison Wangler
Dario Ware
Jada Wells
Keenan Westerfield
Tyler Whipple
DeAvion Williams
Jayden Williams

Bisochi Wilondja
Emedi Wilondja
Malingumu Wilondja
Chandra Woods
Davion Woodson
Noah Wright
Nolan Wright

Tway Ye
Barack Young
Laron Young
Miranda Zeroth

THE SOPHOMORE HUSTLE

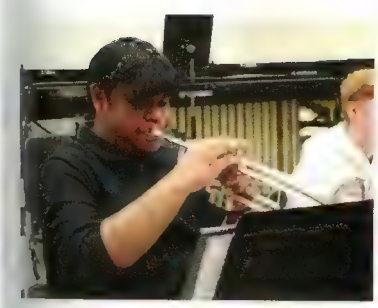
"I'm excited to play on Varsity this year because of the harder competition, and I feel like a leader for the younger people on the team. It's a big step for college."
Elijah Venegas, Football

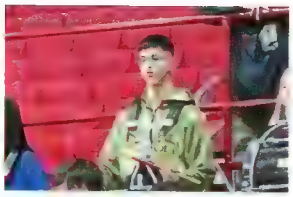
"I'm more excited because it will get me to the next step for college. Some of my favorite things while playing on Varsity is how the crowd interacts with us, and I like how the coaches show us better discipline."
Josh Farrance, Football

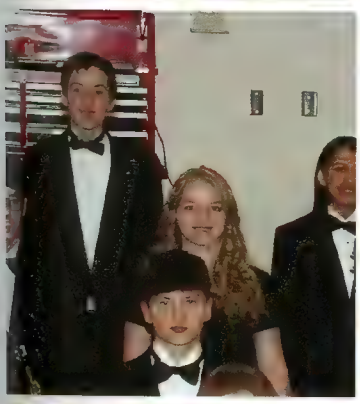
"I'm excited because I'll have to play harder competition, which will drive me to be a better player."
Lilly McDaniel, Golf

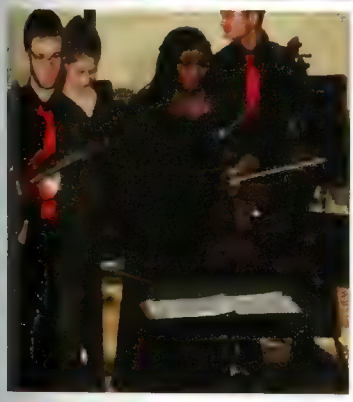
"I'm more excited. It's my second year playing on Varsity. My goal is to go D1 in soccer. One thing that I will carry most with me is the brotherhood the team holds."
Grant Stewart, Soccer

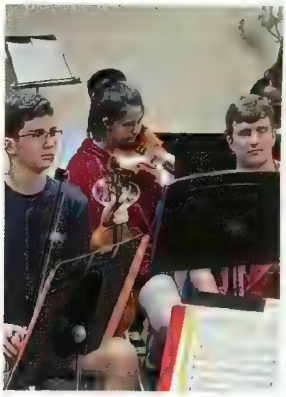
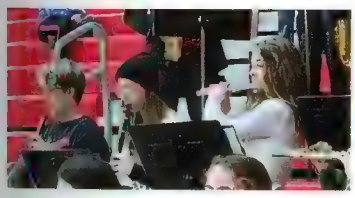
"I'm pretty nervous to be playing Varsity. I feel it's a lot of pressure. Being on Varsity last year, I feel like I need to be a mentor for the freshmen. I'm looking forward to bonding with my team."
Reagan Hawotte, Soccer

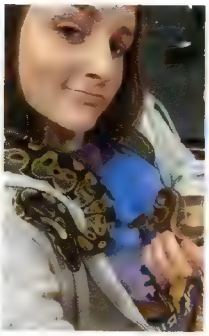










SOMETHING'S *Slithering* IN THE CLASSROOM

our first MOMENT

After the hectic past few years in junior high, a chapter has closed, and a new one has opened up. Walking in the doors of our new home for the next four years, is a feeling we will never forget.

Over the next four years, we hope to take advantage of every opportunity headed our way. Starting this new chapter has given us the chance to show what we have to offer our community, and give it our all.

Over the next four years, it is our time to embrace our Rocky Pride, and live every moment to its fullest. This part of our life opens up so many experiences for us, and allows us to discover our true identities.

We know these next few years are going to fly by, and we plan to soak up every moment of our four years here. We cannot wait to see what there is to come during our time at the Rock. This year may be our first moment here, but it is the first moment we will use to make our marks on our school.

54
56
41
50

Ndayishimiye Abia
Martha Abuke
Jennifer Aguilar
Santino Aguilar
Pedro Alba-Garcia
Kaden Allen
Kampbell Allen

Alexandra Alva
Dante Anderson
E'Monte Anderson
Versacie Anderson
Alex Arredondo
Malaysia Arrington-Mentria
Laura Avalos

Annabelle Avegnon
Moe Moe Aye
Jean Babwiriza
Derrick Badgers
Wilondja Bahininwa
Gavin Barber-Morgan
Lauryn Barker

Cooper Barnes
Dylan Barrell
Kaitlynn Bartelt
Logan Behrens
Ka'Zaria Bell
Mackenzie Bennett
Scarlett Bennett

FRESH TAKES

Freshman volleyball players discuss how it feels to suit up for the Rocks.

"It's definitely nerve-racking, but it is great when we put on our jerseys, and go out and play with the support of the upperclassmen."
- Izzy Spurgetis

"It's a fun experience to be able to play for Rocky, and it can be overwhelming, I think, sometimes, but more fun and exciting."
- Bella Wilson

"It's a pretty cool opportunity, and I'm very glad to be a part of it."
- Aubrey Massie

"It's new, exciting, nerve-racking, and definitely a good experience."
- AJ Stewart

Brock Berger
Deixhiaughn Berry
Elaina Biswell
Eric Biswell
Samuel Bizimana
Marco Blake
Payton Boemecke

Jahmya Bogguess
Nytrell Bommon
Isabella Bostic
Vanessa Boswell
Landyn Bowker
R'Eannah Bowker
Amauri Bradley

Da Nai Jah Bragg
Noah Breiby
John Britton
A'Brielle Brown
Gregory Brown
Jada Brown
Nicholas Buckwalter

Abriana Bullock
Olivia Bunch
Di'Neshia Burch
Alex Burgmeier
Shila Burns
Christah Butler
Rihanna Butler

Alonnah Calhoun
Thalia Camacho
Layla Campbell
Ryder Carothers
Iphe Carr
Keegan Carroll
LaRayah Carroll

FRESHMEN FEARS

"I fear my grades. I want to finish the year strong, so I can maintain a good GPA."

- Haleigh Laud

"Not feeling like I belong or being made fun of for being different. I joined football and Marching Band, and found kids just like me, and they made me feel like I belong."

- Olivia Harms

"Grades and maintaining them. I will study, make important notes, and sign up for Pride Time with the class I was behind in."

- Beautiful Wah

"My fear is getting to know a whole new, different learning environment, and meeting a ton of new people."

- Eh Nay Soe

"Not being able to get to my classes on time. I will think of a route that will get me there the fastest, and take it daily, simple."

- LaRayah Carroll

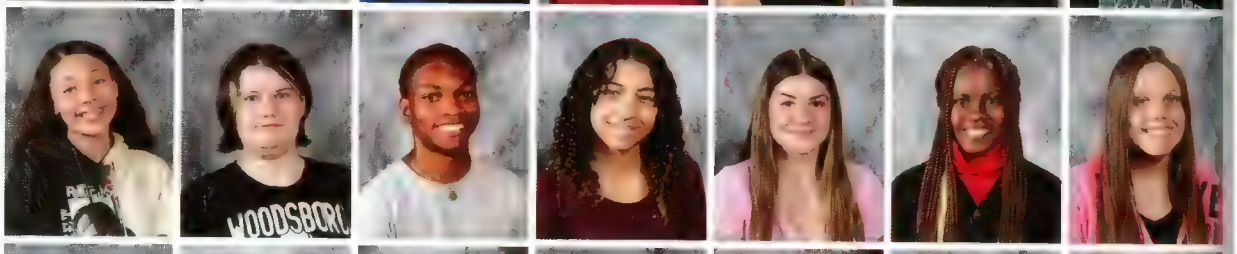
"Trying to fit in with others and new friends. I plan to overcome my fear by doing things out of my comfort zone, like simply starting a conversation with someone I've never talked to."

- Thereza Mustafa

Christopher Castaneda
Marco Castaneda
Tatiana Castillo-Cisneros
Harper Chapman
Azucena Chavez
Niyibikoze Chenaiza
Uriah Chenoweth

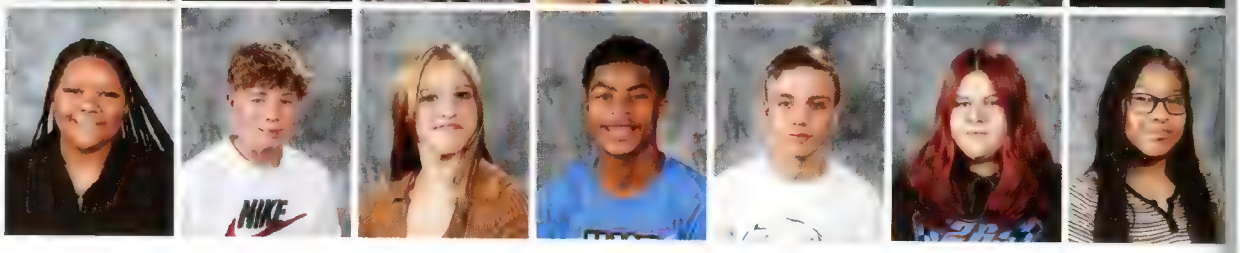
Ricky Childs
Tavoryian Clark
TayShawn Clark
Alex Clarke
Devyn Clay
Alexander Clemann
Emily Coats

Kristyana Coil
Lincoln Conger
D'Milo Conner
Teegan Conwell
Alice Cook
Bayisenge Cornelio
Kylie Cortez



Remy Cozadd
Jaylin Craig
Lucas Crandall
Isabella Crane
Trey Cunningham
Makayla Curry
Irakoze Daniel

Nevaeh Daugherty
Andrew Davis
Jacquelyn Davis
Kylan Davis
Adam Dawkins
Erin DeBrackeleire
Mayerly Decker

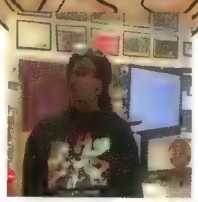


What Food Should Rocky Serve?

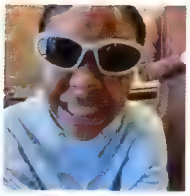
"If Rocky could serve anything in the cafeteria, I think it should be a beverage bar, where you can buy Atomic, Starbucks, and other drinks for the students to purchase."
- Ka'Zaria Bell

"Not pizza. I'm so over the pizza every day. When I go to lunch, I hope for something different, but no change. I guess I would just want something everyone can enjoy, like pasta, maybe."
Daniella Leahy

"Greek food would be amazing. Both falafel and gyros would be popular and good things to add to the menu. Indian food would be another amazing food to add."
Harper Chapman



"I wish they had pasta (spaghetti, alfredo, and mac and cheese)!"
Abia Ndayishimiye



"The food is fine. I just want small water bottles."
Jaiden Tot

"High quality, authentic Mexican food. Or Chipotle."
Evan Regur

"Having different cultures of food to try different things."
Bless Jabbah

Payton Decker
Mariah Deemer
Jacob Delf
Delaney Dempsey
Himari Dennis
Honatsu Dennis
Ivyonna DeRoin

Abigail Dillard
Korie Dillard
Jack Docherty
Mason Dohogne
Natalia Dominguez
Aubrey Doss
Youssif Doukoure

Nevaeh Dove
Alliene Downing
Parker Drish
Harmony Dunbar-Franklin
Edward Dunlap
Patient Ebengo-Mchumbe
Ronald Edwards

Justice English
Lola Ennis
Bryce Ericson
Cruz Escamilla
Paige Espinosa
Jersey Everson
Dominic Eygabroad

Aria Faqiri
Shoaib Faqiri
Quinn Feigley
Michael Fentress
Riziki Fikiri
Camryn Fineran
Keelie Firrell

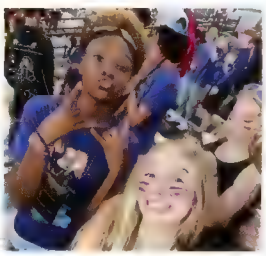
HIGHLIGHTING A GREAT **YEAR**

"All the new friends I've made, and I am close to getting my license."
- Olivia Harms

"Indianapolis BOA (Bands of America) competition because we got to leave school, and travel, go to the garage, then compete at Colts stadium."
- Millie Gidaszewski

"Going to football games and being in the student section with all my friends, talking, cheering, and just having fun."
- Yaretzi Jimenez

"I made a lot of new, great friends!"
- Destiny Stafford



"The highlight of my year, so far, has definitely been any sporting events, especially football and basketball. It's always fun to dress up for the themes, and get to socialize with people you go to school with."
- Bella Wilson

Holden Flosi
Nolan Fonteyne
Catriell Foreman
Helen Franco
Kasee Frantz
Ly'Ida Frazier
Mason Fry

Ladavia Funches
Zamaria Gadlin
Ava Gallina
Jose Garcia
Maricela Garcia
Griffin Garro
Sophia Garza

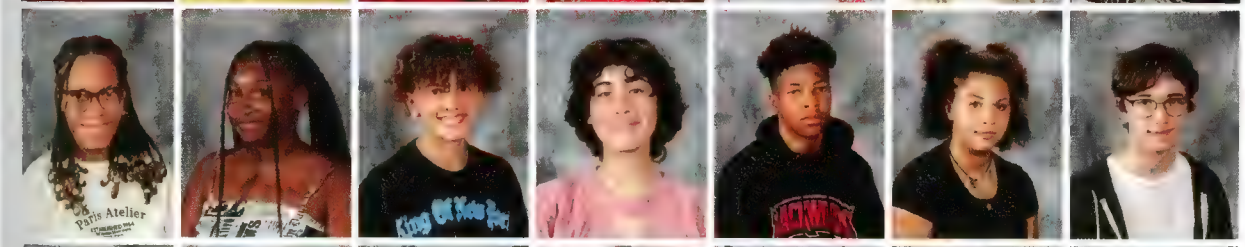
Alayna Gay
Amine Gay
Nevaeh George
Millie Gidaszewski
Braden Gilliland
Donald Gimzo
Abraham Gomez

Isaac Gomez
Matteo Gomez
Conner Goodwin
Yai'Nejazisha Gray
Madelynn Greenwood
Brett Grypp
Tamina Gunasheva

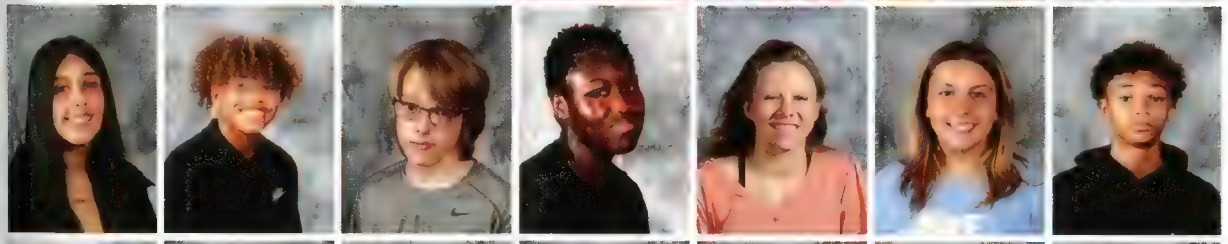
Francesca Guyette
Emilio Guzman
Hector Guzman-Martinez
Nyasia Hall
Trevor Hamburg
Marvin Hamilton
Marvion Hamilton

FRESHMEN TAKE THE FIELD

Trace Hampsey
William Hampton
Zachary Hansen
Avery Hanson
Mason Harl
Olivia Harms
Kendall Harrell

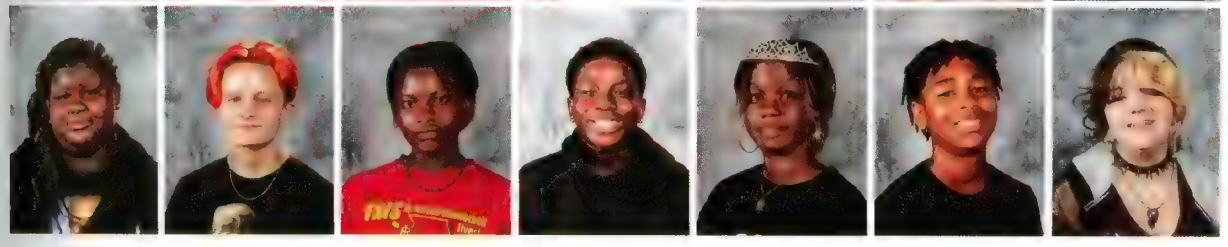


Londyn Harris
Nevaeh Harris-Jackson
Tyler Harvey
Zaynah Hassan
Jarius Hearn
Emma Helms
Maximilian Hemphill-Salaverria



Cheyan Hiatt
Colby Hickman
Elijah Hodgett
Raphaella Hodonou
Scarlett Hoeppner
Keylee Hollon
Naasir Horne

Sentavious Houston
John Htoo
Nelson Htoo
Ni Tha Blay Htoo
Samuel Htoo
Mallory Hudnall
Temar Hudson



Anastacia Hughes
Emily Ignatius
Bernice Irakoze
BienVenue Iteriteka
Blessing Jabbah
Mukuta Jackson
Hailey Jacobs

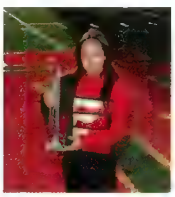
"It's just been really fun in Marching Band. I've just had a lot of fun with everyone here and all of my friends."
- Youssif Doukoure

"What I like about Marching Band is how many people I met. It's nice seeing these people during the summer, and then seeing them at school. It's better because you already know these people, and they say, 'hi', and they're really nice."
- Paige Espinosa

"I'm excited for more competitions and trips!"
- Hope Pohl

"I'm excited to see where the band goes over the course of my entire high school career. The band is already a great band, but I know we're going to improve."
- Cole York

"I'm most looking forward to the trips to competitions."
- Zachary Hansen



"I'm excited for seeing the whole show put together. It's fun, and I get to hang out with my auntie."
- Christer New

Marching Into High School

Freshmen explain what it is like to join Rocky's Marching Band.

TRAVELING AROUND THE GLOBE

"Paris, France because it just seems like a fun place to visit and learn about, or England."

- Daniella Leahy

"I would love to go to Switzerland because it is so pretty there, and it seems very calming."

- Abia Ndayishimiye

"Probably Korea because I've always wanted to learn the language, and I think the language is cool."

- Jaiden Tot

"I would like to travel and study in Germany. We had German exchange students, and their attire, language, and overall experience is something I would like to try because trying new things is something I like and enjoy doing."

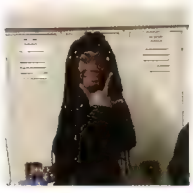
- Bernice Irakoze

"If I had to, I would choose England because their grading system is so easy, and I would be at the top of the school, probably. I would also like to go to Japan because it is so futuristic over there, and their food looks good."

- Easter Naing

"Africa or somewhere in Europe. They're both beautiful places to travel to and explore."

- Bless Jabbah



"England, because I wouldn't have to learn a new language."

- Lucas McCall

Gracie James
Ashton Jared
Chase Jared

Alexandro Jimenez
Yaretzi Jimenez
Alyvia Johnson

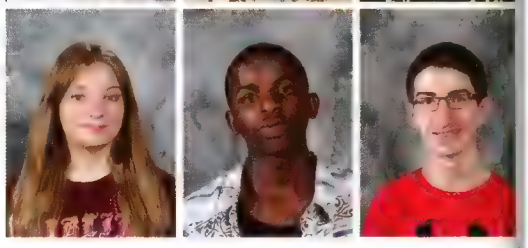
Dasarae Johnson
Sa'Coriana Johnson
Zada Johnson

Emmah Jones
J'lynn Jones
Joshua Jones

Tamia Jones
Matthias Kelley
Alonzo Kelly

Fatuma Keya
Srinity King
Honesty Kirk

Jenna Kitterman
Kessy Kizungu
Owen Klapperich



Stanasia Knight
Haleigh Laud
Daniella Leahy
JaMarrie Lee
Sell Lei
Robert Leihsing
Kaleigha Lemmon

Agelix Leon
Su Su Let
Collin LeVan
Devell Lewis
Swaveontae Lewis
Tramond Lewis
Elijah Linton

Kylee Littlejohn
Audrey Long
Quinton Long
Sage Lucio
Jack Luebbers
Rebecca Maess
Gabriel Mahn

Juliene Majaliwa
Dax Manary
Joseph
Maniragaba
Alida Mapes
Daniel Marceleno
Mupaji Marisiyana
Merrell Mars

MOVING ON UP

Rocky freshmen compare their freshman year to their junior high years.

"Well, it's a lot bigger school with new material to learn, and has created way more opportunities to learn and help, and everything goes at a much faster pace."
- Christer New

"Edison was way easier to manage because of how easy it was to get around the school, but now, Rocky is longer and bigger, which makes it harder to get around. Edison classes didn't need as much as high school classes. So, I have to carry more stuff to Rocky than in Edison."
- Nelson Htoo

Alicia Martin
Yazmyne Martinez
Henry Mass
Alexa Massie
Aubrey Massie
Julyan Mayares
Lucas McCall

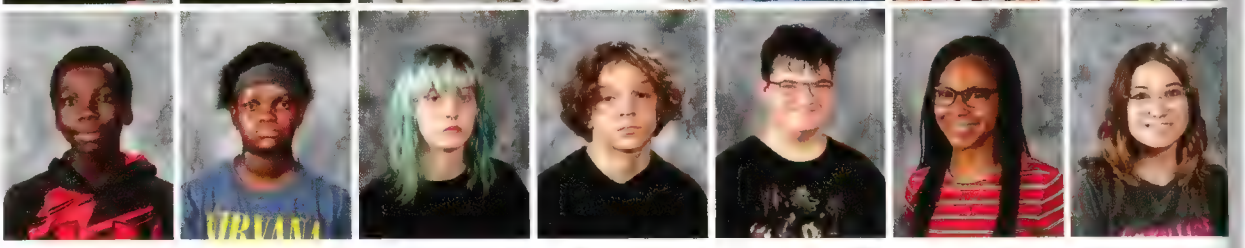
Jaelyn McClay
Isaac McConchie
Jermariona McCray
Coryon McDuffy
Ian McGowan
Lonnie McMullen
June McNeal

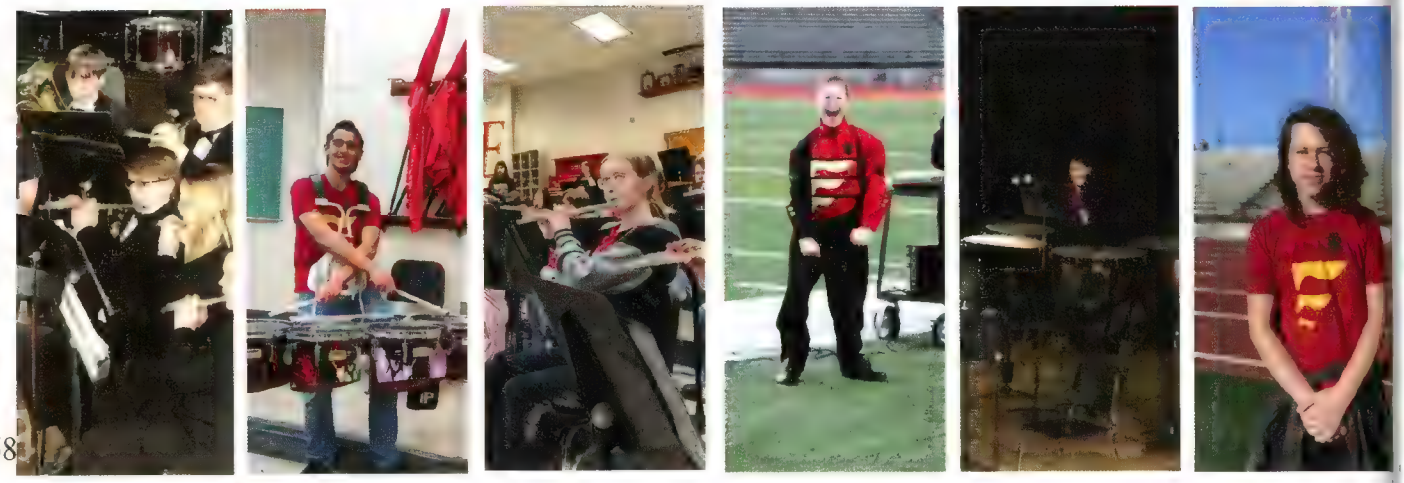
Isaiah McRae
Jack Meade
Viridiana Medrano
Michael Millbrook
Aviana Miller
Isabella Mills
Jaydah Mitchell

Kylan Mitchell
Nova Moa
Mohammad Mohammadi
Angelo Mojica
Bu Moo
Ka Moo
Shee Ler Moo

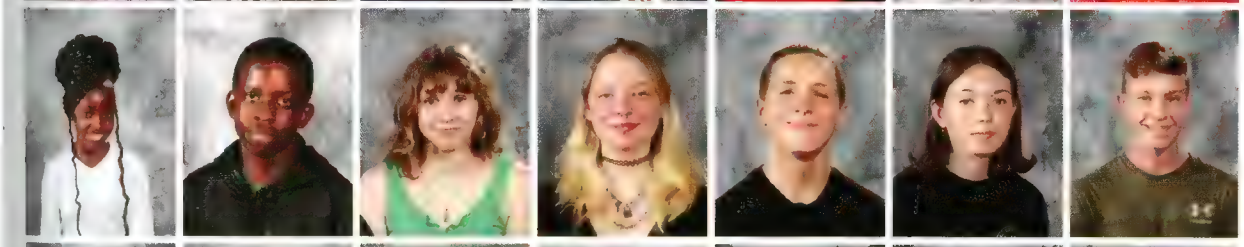
Calvin Moore
Evan Moore
Kalista Moran
Anthony Moreno
EJ Mumma
Thereza Mustafa
Easter Naing

Matendo Natani
Mwamini Neema
Baila Nees
Gavin Neff
Jackson Nesseler
Imari Nettles
Olivia Nevarez





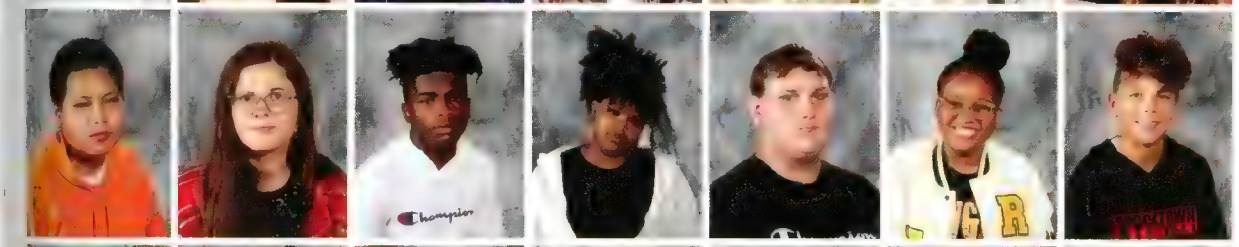
Christer New
Cody Newberry
Andrew Niemi
Jayce Nissen
Jake Nixon
Ezekiel Niyonzima
Gul Naz Nooristani



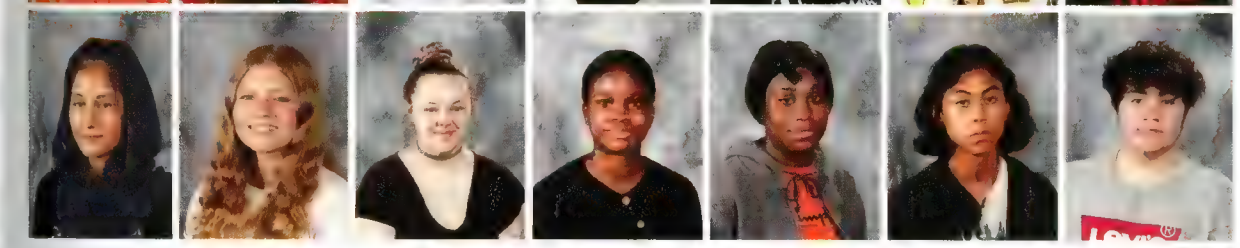
Fedora Noya
Olivier Obedi
Claire O'Hern-Maidak
Alexandra Ojeda
Andrew Oliver
Madeline Olson
Jackson Otten

Daniel Owens
Kaylee Owens
Addison Pannell
Chance Parrish
Wyatt Patrick
Kale Pattison
Naw K'Lu Paw

Michael Payton
Taylor Pedigo
Alexis Perez
Isaac Perez
Jacob Perez
Lincoln Perez
Emily Perkins



Ni Pet
Hope Pohl
Atife Pore
Jasmine Powers-Hodges
Brayden Prather
Charisma Pulliam
Josiah Putnam



Fazila Qubadi
Alissa Quinlan
Scarlett Ragusi
Ja'liyah Rainer
Cortyia Ralston
Jose Ramirez
Marcos Ramirez

MANY FRESHMEN, ONE BAND

Jose Ramos
A Miyah Randolph
Kyson Ray
Evan Regur
Marley Reyes
Benjamin Richardson

Ulana Richey
Maria Rico-Garcia
Olivia Riecke
Adrian Rincon
Anthony Rivera-Perez
Amari Roberts

Amaiah Robinson
Emikalima Roelens
Matthew Roessler
Kelis Rogers
Neima Rogers
Karina Romero-Escamilla

Ameena Ross
Esaias Rucker-May
Brandon Rush
Daniel Salazar-McClain
Edwar Salinas
Makayla Sanders

Ramadhan Sango
Poe Lie Htoo Say
Jayden Schanfish
Braiden Schulte
Austin Schwab
Olivia Seidlitz

Zainab Sekandari
Ethan Shadden
Jaquay Shelton
Ywa Hay Sher
Maese Shukuru
Ashley Simmons

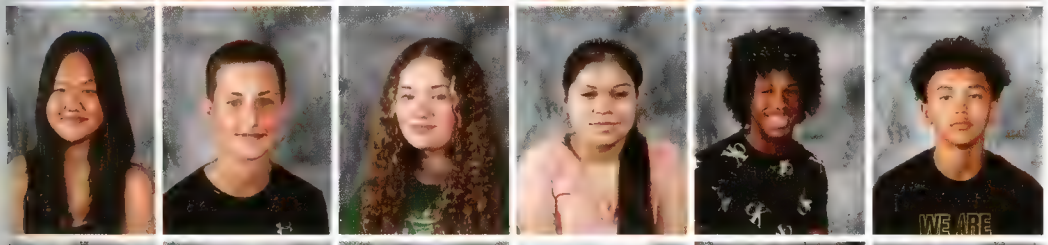
Roland Sisson
Hezekiah Slater
Cardreyon Smith
Levi Smith
Madison Smith
Eh Soe

WEARING RED & GOLD

Eh Doh Soe
Eh Nay Soe
Hai Nay Soe
Joshua Soe
Cameron Son
Isabella Spurgetis

Destiny Stafford
Justin Staley
Jackson St. Amand
Hailey Stanley
Sylvya Steele
Ingabire Stella

AJ Stewart
Kaleeya Stewart
Xavier Stewart
Nicole Stokes
Brenden Strader
Sidney Sullivan



Biak Sung
Kaiden Swanson
Mia Sweborg
Montoya Tapia
George Tate
Avian Thomas

Tierra Thomas
Christian Thompson
Jaiden Tot
Nishimwe Tresor
Vianca Tuominen Pawlik
Simon Uwezo

Hayden Vance
Alexander VandeWalle
Mariah Vann
Fernanda Vazquez Chavarria
Alaysha Veasey
Mackenzee Velasco

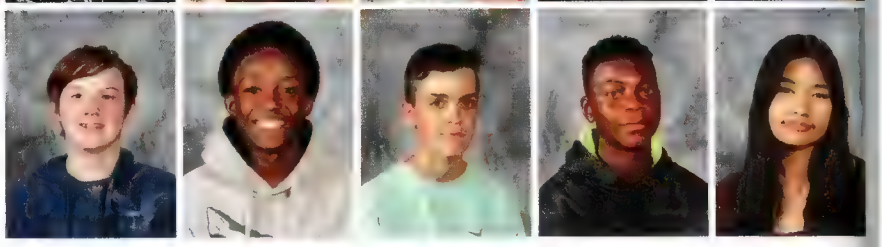
George Velazquez
Adrian Venegas
Te'Von Venson
Honesty Vesey
Knowledge Vesey
Gracelynn Veys
Samuel Vicentina

Edgar Villafana
Martin Villaseca
Christian Villasenor
Elizabeth Voorhis
Katelyn Voss
Averi Vroman
Beautiful Wah

Eh Wah
Tha Eh Wah
JaKayla Walsh
Jera Warner
Isaiah Westerfield
Tyree White
Michael Whited

Tyler Whitten
Earraya Williams
KeMareo Williams
Nevaeh Williams
Xavier Willoughby
Zion Willoughby
Bella Wilson

Noah Witmer
Caleb Woods-Stewart
Cole York
Lawson Zulu
Nuam Zuun



MOVING ON UP!

Freshmen on the Lady Rocks Basketball Team explain how it feels to play up in the program

"Even though I was out half the season, playing up is fun. I enjoy the environment more, and it's faster paced, meaning I got to challenge myself. Another plus is my mom is the assistant, so I got to annoy her."

- Katie Voss

"For me, playing up with an older group allows me to challenge myself to work hard to obtain my position. I also enjoy how I can always count on my team to have my back, and overall, I've grown an amazing bond with the players and coach."

- Ka'Zaria Bell

"I think it feels good, since I get to show my talent on a higher level. Also, it gets me more prepared for what I might see in the future. It makes me happy, since all my work has paid off, and I get to see my parents just as happy."

- Daniella Leahy

"It feels good because I can show my talent, and it prepares me for my future for basketball. And, I have good competition now that I'm playing up."

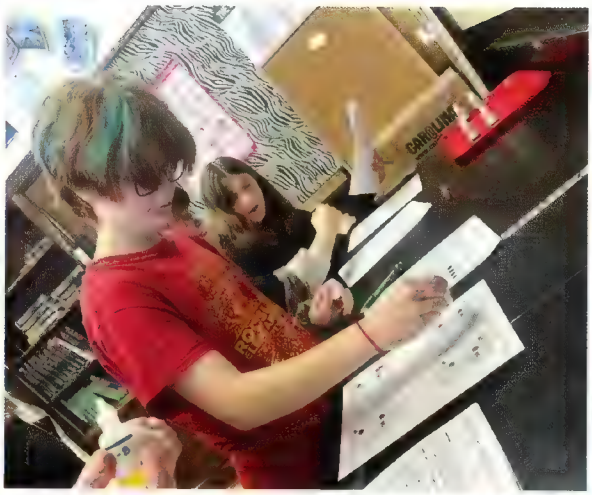
- Ameena Ross

"I think it's an incredible thing to get to be a part of. Playing up at a little higher level, where your skills are being tested, and forcing you to make decisions quickly has been a great thing to experience. It forces me to work harder to push myself to make it to the next level. The friendships I've made have been so worth it, as well, and I can't wait to continue to grow, not only individually, but with my team!"

- Mallory Hudnall

"It feels good to know that they picked me becaus of my skills, and boosted my confidence a little

- Makayla Curry



freshmen keep it

classy!

Rocky freshmen experience a wide variety of labs and debates in class.

"I really enjoy sitting in the student section because everyone is always happy and welcoming, and even if we are down, we still have good spirit, and we encourage our players to keep going."
- Ka'Zaria Bell

"It is something that I have always thought was 'so cool' for some reason, and I couldn't wait to be a part of it. Now, being a part of it is so exciting, and getting to be surrounded by everyone is so much fun. I can't wait to be a part of it, and get to be supporting my fellow classmates!"
- Mallory Hudnall

"It's different than what I expected, but it's fun to finally be a part of it after watching from afar since I was a little kid."
- Kampbell Allen

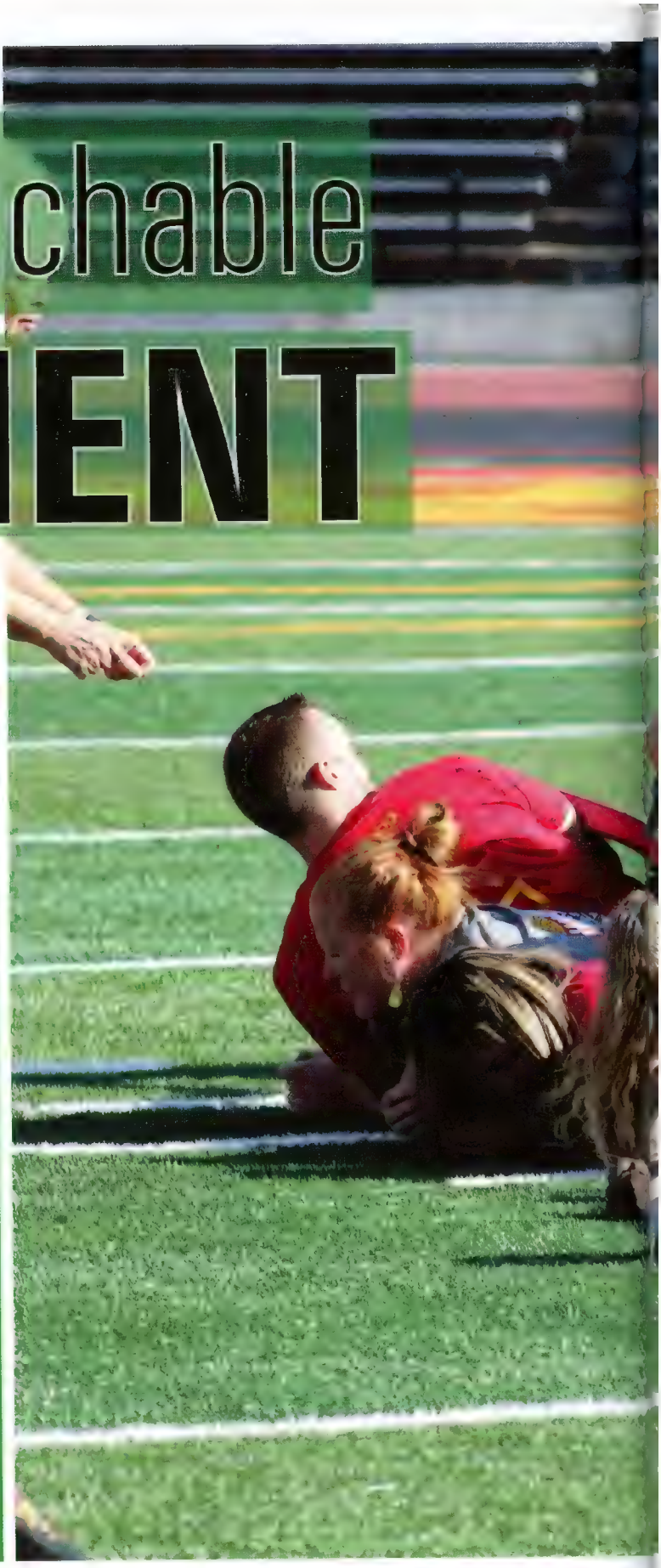
"The energy when rooting for our team."
- Santino Aguilar

"After many years of just watching the student section at my brother's games, finally being included in it was super exciting, and it's fun creating memories that I'll have for, probably, the rest of my life."
- Katie Voss

"When we'd do different chants towards the opposing team's student section!"
- Yaretzi Jimenez

PRESHMEN'S
FIRST

every teachable MOMENT



As staff members at Rock Island High School, we know that every moment here is a valuable one. Every moment is a teachable one. Every moment is one we and our students can learn from. We also know those lessons are not always directly out of our curriculum and lesson plans or practice schedule for the day.

Sometimes, the moments we find most valuable are in between classes, chatting with students and our colleagues. The moments are before lessons or after lessons, just before the bell rings, when we get to connect with those in our classrooms.

The connections we make create an atmosphere in our rooms that, hopefully, encourage kids to learn and engage more, and most importantly, feel at home at the Rock. Because, in reality, the moment you feel at home and comfortable in this place, is the moment you realize that any challenge you decide to take on at Rocky is one in which you can succeed.

The moment you realize you have support here is the moment Rocky becomes more than just a place to get your education, but a place you belong.

Dawn Aimone

Craig Allison

Lori Alvarez

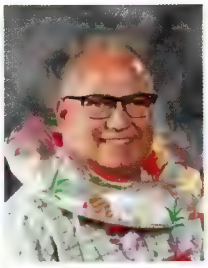
Lorelei Andedo

Lori Anderson

Julie Arnold

Cassey Attebery

Janey Batterson


Lonnie Behnke

Ann Boege

Emily Bohling

Mark Bollaert

Nadia Bouchareb

Megan Braun-Howard

Pete Carlin

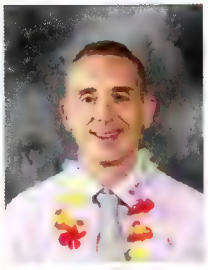
Jon Catterton

Jennifer Chewning

Julie Churchill

Ty Colvin

Tim Corwin


Dan Coyne-Logan

Sue Crowder

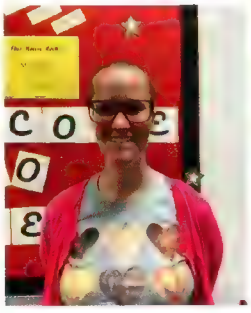
Amy Curtiss

Karen Davis

Staff Pet Peeves

"I hate when students are late to class."
- Mr. Schwab

"I truly can't stand when someone chews with their mouth open. That sound is like nails on a chalkboard to me."
- Mrs. Churchill



"I hate repetitive noises, like people tapping, or beeping sounds!"
- Mrs. Young

"When Mr. Melody and/or Mr. Catterton takes a day off without giving me a week's notice."
- Mrs. Greenwood

"I hate the sound styrofoam makes."
- Mr. Corwin

Stephanie Davis

Tonya Davis

Erin Dempsey-Rohr

Katie Dennis

Haley Denton

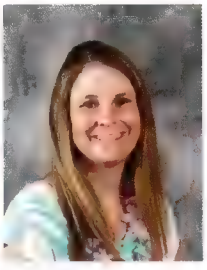
Stephanie Dieudonne

Lisa Donelson

Keith Dunker

Jeff Duster

Tony Duytschaever


Chris Dyer

Scott Dyer

Nick Eli

Tina Eygabroad

Lavill Figgs

Dorian Foster

Valeria Gonzales

Andrew Gray

Michelle Greenwood

Bill Gustafson

Andrew Hains

Emmanuel Hakizimana

Jackie Harms

Connie Hayek

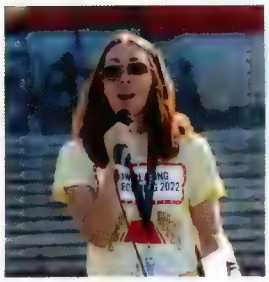
Early Risers

"I arrive at 7:30 with my daughter. We start the morning with getting coffee, making the day so much better!"
- Mrs. Vroman

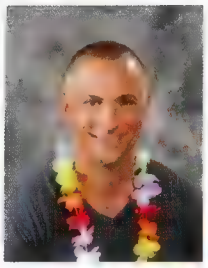
"I arrive around 6AM every day. It's a great time for me to get my grading and planning done."
- Mrs. Greenwood

"I usually arrive at 5:30 to get work done with fewer distractions. In the winter, the icy sidewalks are a 'fun' condition."
- Mrs. Hayek

"I get here about 7:10. I don't like getting here at the last second, but I have spent the night here while a drum core was housed."
- Mr. Carlin


"I get to school at 7:30, which is when the daycare opens. I enjoy my mornings with a cup of coffee, and watching 'Bluey' with my daughter, Rowan."
- Mrs. Mertel

Brian Hodge


Thad Hoover

Robert Horice

Meaghan Jackson

Jennifer Johnson

Troy Joseph

Jenifer Kelty

Chad Kennelly

Ben Kirgan

Jason Kitterman

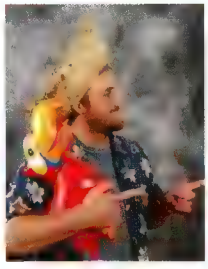
Susan Lanning

Christopher LaRoche

Kris Martens

Patricia Matson

Cheryl McClendon


Sean McCollum

Sarah Miers

Mike Melody

Mary Mendelin

Mike and Katie Mertel

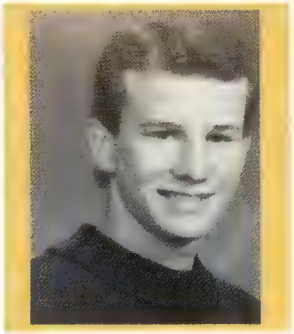
Patty Mewes

Meghan Miers

Stanley McGlaughlin

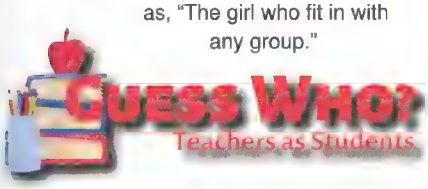
Mrs. Greenwood
Junior, 1996
Cheerleader and Band member
Greenwood described herself as, "The girl who fit in with any group."

Mr. Dyer
Senior, 1991
Dyer described himself as, "Easy to get along with."



Mrs. Regan
Senior, 1995
Cheerleader, shy, and a rule follower.
Regan stated, "I started to come out of my shell more the second half of junior year."

Mr. Rice
Junior, 2003
According to Mr. Benson, I was, "Well mannered, well respected, humble, and a helper."



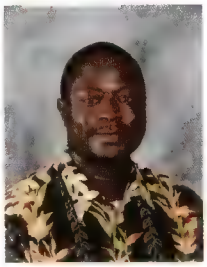
Janna Miller-DeDecker

Audrey Moody

Tammy Morgan

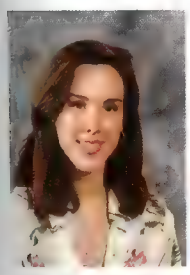
Mackenzie Munday

Brian Mwaga


Robert Mwaga

William Osmun

Julie Pearson


Madison Penn

Kelly Preston

Willie Randle

Nicole Regan

Stacey Rel

Shanley Resch

Martin Resner

Lance Riccio

Dail Rice

Steven Rogers

David Schriefer

Maria Schrup

Richard Schwab

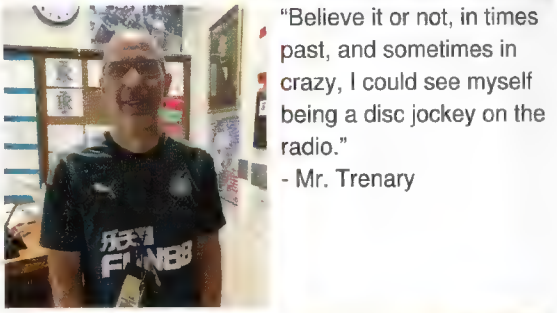
David Sebben

Elizabeth Shaffer

Craig Sharp

Where Would They Be?

What would teachers at Rocky be doing if they never became teachers?



"Believe it or not, in times past, and sometimes in crazy, I could see myself being a disc jockey on the radio."
- Mr. Trenary

"Since I have had children, I think being a stay at home mom would be great. It is hard to manage work and home with my two girls."
- Mrs. Bohling

"I have always loved history, so I would have wanted to do something with that."
- Mr. Hains

"If I weren't teaching, I think it would be really cool to be a tour guide for groups visiting Germany."
- Mr. Eli

"I think, most realistically, I would have gone into something like engineering."
- Mr. Corwin

Travis Shepherd

Demetriyone Singleton

Shavonne Singleton

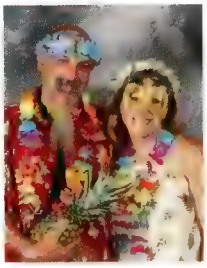
Courtney Stone

Justin Thies

Mike Tollenaer

Dan Trenary

Maria Trigueros


Jennifer Trimble

Isaiah Tubbs

Kim VanKirk

Angela Vega

Kyle Verschorre

Scott Voigt

Laurie Vroman

Jay Wayland

Wade Weber

Jeff Whitaker

Carmen Woods

Tracy Wyers

Kelly Young

Paula Zigler

What Could Have Been...

Teachers recall their dream jobs before teaching.

"Being Spiderman would be pretty great. I keep letting spiders bite me, but I can't seem to cling to walls, unfortunately."
- Chad Kennelly

"My dream job was always to be a stay at home mom or pediatrician. I love kids, and knew I wanted to work with them in some sort of capacity."
- Nicole Regan

"I wanted to be an artist. I would have 'art shows' in my living room, and my parents would purchase my art work."
- Laura Vroman

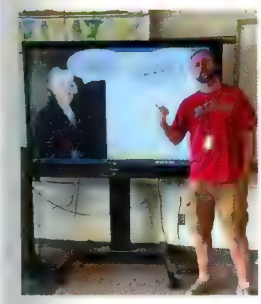
"I wanted to be so many things! A comedian, coffee shop owner, Jim Carrey's wife."
- Dorian Foster

"Second baseman for the Chicago Cubs."
- Mike Melody

"An artist, or an astronaut."
- David Schriefer

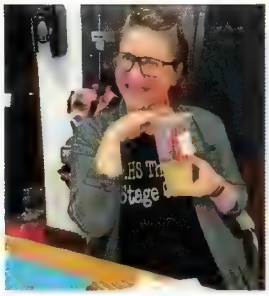
Staff STAPLES

Staff members explain items they consider necessary for their teaching.



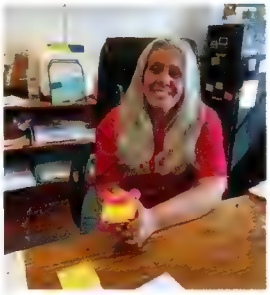
"Art pens."
- Mr. Gray

"Sticky notes. They're really helpful."
- Mrs. Arnold



"My Promethean"
- Mr. Shephard

"My microscopes. It opens up a whole new world for kids."
- Mrs. Anderson



"Coffee. It's like my professional support companion."
- Mrs. Foster

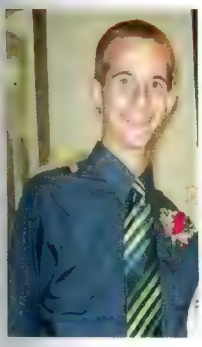
Staff vs. Stereotypes

Mrs. Dennis

"I would say my high school stereotype was 'quiet, shy girl'."

Mrs. Churchill

"I would say that my high school 'stereotype' (I'm not sure if I really had one) was that I was a busybody. I was involved in a ton of sports and clubs, and was at school probably more often than I was at home because I was so busy. Here's one of my senior year photos. (I graduated 2007)."



Mr. Mertel

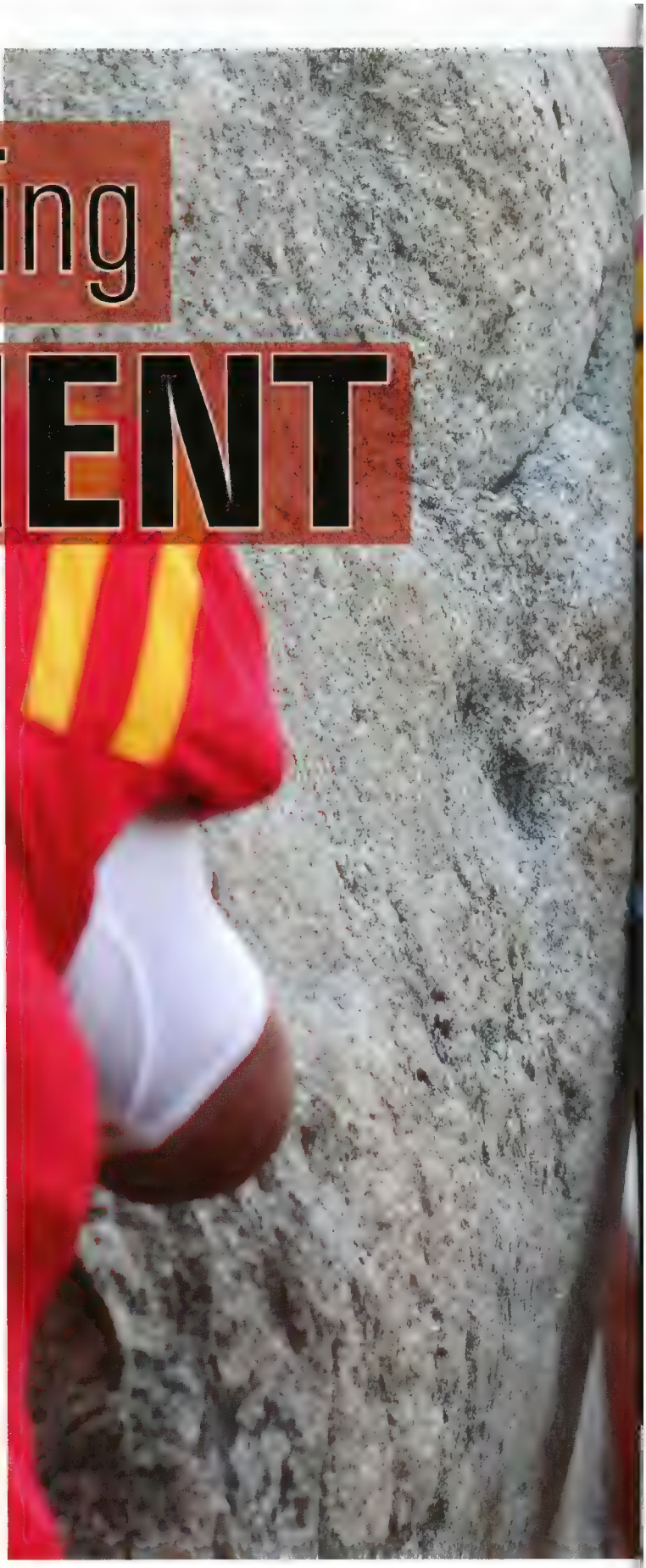
"I don't believe that I really fit into one specific 'stereotype.' I got good grades, and was in mostly Honors or AP classes. I was also a member and captain of the soccer team, as well as other clubs. I made friends with people from all different 'cliques.' I really appreciated the student body at my high school. Much like Rocky, it was extremely diverse, with students from all different backgrounds. My friendships with others helped me learn cultures, and led me to value those differences."

Jacqueline Epperly

Mrs. Harms

"My step-dad was a teacher here when I was in high school, so I probably had the stereotype of 'teacher's kid.' I think this can either be someone who follows all the rules or breaks all of them. I didn't break all the rules, but I definitely didn't follow all of them either."

one winning MOMENT



Being a Rocky athlete is more than just that. You become a part of something special, a team and legacy like no other. After spending countless hours together, working with a passion towards the same goal, you become family. These are the people you work with on the field, court, track, mat, and in the pool. You fight together against rivals, and are there for each other after something goes wrong. "It's not about getting knocked down, it's about getting back up" is something we've all heard, but the Rocks continue to show up, time and time again, bringing pride to our school, and showing the love and support that goes into all athletics.

As your senior year goes on, you'll realize you've put on your uniform for the last time, get choked up, reminisce on the first time you ever tried it on, and the excitement that coursed through you with the possibilities of the future. This is it, Rocks. This is everything you've worked for... your one WINNING moment.

CHECK OUT THIS
YEARBOOK VIDEO
CREATED BY AIDAN HENDERSON

Riddell

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"Realistically, catching a pass from Quincy, and running the ball 65 yards, scoring the ball, and putting us up 21-0. I felt like I was that man, as I ran the ball."
- Cameron Figgs

SHOW OUR

"The tradition of putting stripes on the helmet after Red/Gold is a big symbol in our program. It represents all of the work in the off season that the kids put in to help the team be successful. We also ask for commitments from the adults in the program to help and support where they can. The striping and stickers represent the athlete officially being on the team. It is significant to the team because the season is finally here. Football is different in that you spend way more time practicing and preparing for the season than actually playing in games."
- Coach Hammer

CAPTAINS

"Being named a team captain was great. It showed that a lot of my teammates look at me as a leader, and I was grateful to do so."
- Edmund Garcia

"There's not many feelings better than being named captain, being voted by teammates I've grown up with, to vote for me to lead, and it is an amazing feeling."
- Jace Bennett

"It makes me feel proud to know I can be a leader for my team, and provide a good role model for them."
- Isaiah Samuelson

2022 varsity football team

PERSEVERE THROUGH IT ALL

The Rock Island Rocks Football Team began their season, spending time doing everything they could to prepare them for their games, such as lifting, training, and spending many hours on the field. The first game against Pekin didn't go as planned, but the team didn't give up. They shook it off, and won their next two home games, back to back.

Coach Hammer considers his biggest accomplishment of the season as, "Just working hard to give the players the best opportunity to be successful on and off the field."

The Rocks ended up finishing 4th in Conference, and going 4-5 in the season. Players Quonterrion Brooks, Jace Bennett, Edmund Garcia, Joe Allen, Steven Marquez, Cameron Figgs, Amare Overton, and Darius Tongo were selected to the Western Big 6 All Conference Team.

The team did face some challenges, including injuries, during the season. Hammer just went with the "next man up mentality," and did his best to keep pushing the boys in the right direction.

The team's goal was to maximize the potential they had, and try to win as many games as possible. Although the Rocks weren't able to make playoffs, they played hard, with Cameron Figgs, Darius Tongo, Joe Allen, Conner Dilulio, Alex Romo, Alex Dee, Steven Marquez, and Fiston Niyogushima, who all had big contributions to the team.

Coach Hammer hopes his athletes learn to strive every day to become the best versions of themselves, and use football to teach life lessons. Once a ROCK, always a ROCK!

PLAYERS

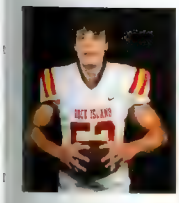
"I remember making a big block at the end of the game, so DesMond can score our kick return, and I'm going to miss my offensive line."
- Quonterrion Brooks

"I enjoyed dancing and listening to music in the locker room after a home win, and then going out to eat with the team and friends."
- Joe Allen

"I'll miss all the seniors, and how they always had everyone's back. I'll always remember the team camp. It was great."
- Conner Dilulio

"The celebration in the locker room after a win."
- Alex Romo

"Just overall building a bond with the team."
- Dameon Anderson

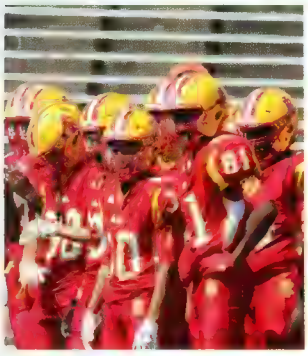


"It was an honor being named team captain by my teammates, and I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to play with."
- John Rohwer

"It was a great feeling to know that the team saw me as a leader."
- Jaquez Smith

"It feels good because everybody is coming to me, asking questions and wanting you to talk to coach, and they come to you first about everything."
- Jauntae Allen

22 CAPTAINS



A Slamming Season

A Review of the 2022 Baseball Season

This past season for the Baseball Team was one to remember. With many wins and amazing memories, this season is one that made others take notice of the Rocks.

This year, the team's goals were "To win twenty games, and a Regional Championship," Coach Scudder stated. The team went on to achieve those goals. "The season highlight would definitely be the fact that we won 20 games for the fist time since 2009-2010, as well as winning our first Regional Championship since '09-10. It was big for our baseball community, and we are excited to grow off of last year," Scudder stated.

The team had a very uplifting group of seniors, who helped when the season got challenging. "We got off to a rough start with some high expectations from within our program. We went to St. Louis, and played 5 of the top 20 teams in the state of Missouri. Our guys continued to battle, and got on a roll the second half of the year," Scudder explained. Though the team went on to have an amazing season, there were difficult moments, too. However, "We had a big senior group (9), who led by example, and found ways to win games. They had a ton of fun together, and kept things light when there were bad days," Scudder stated. The seniors were aided by "Aidan Brokaw, Owen Michaels, Conner Dilulio, three now juniors, as well as Dylan Martin and Stephen Dillender, now seniors, who made a big impact on our team," said Scudder.

The second half of the season was great for the team. The team captains, Tyler Hansen and Zach DeMarlie led the team to an amazing 2021-2022 season record of 22-14. A highlight game for the season was winning the Regional Championship game vs. Moline (3-0) in LaSalle Peru. The team's strengths in pitching and defense helped them to get their Conference record of 8-6. The Rocks look to continue their success in the spring of 2023.

Memories for Life

"My favorite memory was either beating Moline, or winning both games in the Galesburg doubleheader."
TRACE DOWNING

"Any bus ride after we had won a game, and we would just talk and mess around. I don't have a specific game, just the morale and fun."
JAYDEN "JP" PUTNAM

"My favorite memory was Mother's Day weekend, when we played UT. I came into the game in the 7th, with a one run lead, and sat down their best hitters 1, 2, 3. Eventually, we ended up sweeping the doubleheader."
MARK JACKSON

"My favorite memory from last season isn't a specific day or game, but meeting new people and becoming closer with some of the other guys was definitely a highlight for me."

HARRISON KELLEY

"My favorite memory from last year was our trip to St. Louis. Everyone was just having fun, even though we lost all five games. It was especially fun pitching against one of the top high schools in Missouri, and still doing well."

JACKSON BENNETT

"Getting to work out and play baseball in the winter with my team. While other teams were resting, we were at it, getting better."

LUKE GUSTAFSON

one home run **MOMENT**

"When Chase hit a home run during one of our first games, and it boosted our morale a lot, or when freshmen where playing LaSalle Peru, and Jack made a diving catch at second."
- Harrison Kelley

SCORES

VARSITY BASEBALL

WEST CENTRAL	W 12-0
ORION	W 10-9
FRANCIS HOWELL	L 3-4
SEDALIA	L 2-4
BLUE SPRINGS SOUTH	L 1-4
VIANNEY	L 5-6
HOLT	L 2-12
ROCKRIDGE	W 9-2
QUINCY	L 1-6
QUINCY	L 1-7
GENESEO	L 1-11
MOLINE	L 2-3
MOLINE	L 1-6
KNOXVILLE	W 14-6
STERLING	W 10-0
STERLING	W 8-4
GALESBURG	L 2-9
GALESBURG	W 9-7
GENESEO	W 6-4
ALLEMAN	W 4-3
ALLEMAN	W 14-2
MOLINE	W 4-2
EAST MOLINE	W 11-1
EAST MOLINE	W 5-1
ALLEMAN	W 7-1
GALESBURG	W 2-0
PEORIA RICHWOODS	W 3-0
PEORIA RICHWOODS	W 9-2
LASALLE PERU	L 3-10
DAVENPORT CENTRAL	W 14-2
DAVENPORT WEST	W 16-2
WASHINGTON	L 3-4
DAVENPORT NORTH	W 6-5
OTTAWA	W 3-1
MORRIS	W 3-0
MORTON	L 1-15

CAPTAINS

"Being a team captain impacted me because it taught me how to be a mentor, a team player, and how to help my teammates improve."

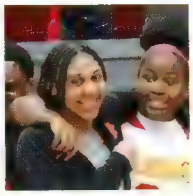
Danee' Robinson, 12

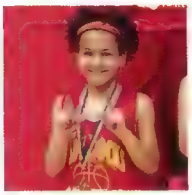
"It has impacted me a lot. It's a honor that coaches and teammates see me as a captain, and a leader of the team."

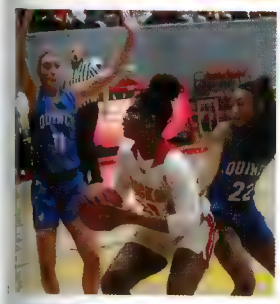
Kayla Rice, 12

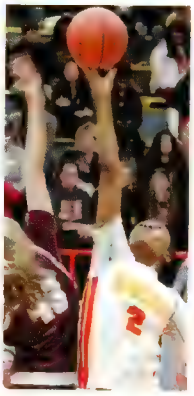
"Being a team captain has impacted me in a very positive way. It brings out the leadership skills I have, which helps my teammates and me on and off the court."

Mariyah McQueen, 12









NOW vs. THEN

SENIORS

#TW3

Coach Henry Hall expressed his delight for his players on and off the court, stating, "I wanted us to be competitive, and get better from the beginning of the season to the end of the season, and we, for sure, accomplished that." He said the team's biggest overall success was that they "probably led the state in two categories, having the toughest non conference schedule, and the most injuries," a challenge they worked to overcome. He also boasted that "Student Athlete" meant a lot to the Lady Rocks, and that the entire program made him proud, as they earned the best grades in his 13-year long career here at Rock Island

On the court, freshman Ka'Zaria Bell naturally embraced a leadership role. "We asked A LOT of her, including playing out of position. She ended up be ng our second leading scorer and leading rebounder. The future for her is BRIGHT!" explained Coach Hall.

The Lady Rocks' seven seniors also did a great job of leading the team all year. Senior Kayla Rice set a great example for others, according to Coach Hall. "She only knows one way to play, and that is hard, all the time," explained Hall.

one MOMENT you'll remember

"Going to the State Farm (Holiday Classic), and really just having fun."

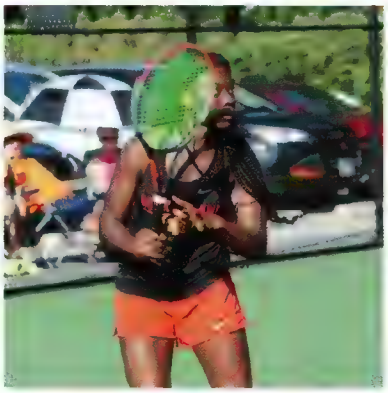
- Javiah Butler

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"My favorite moment this season was our tennis banquet. As a senior, it was an amazing time, recapping the whole season, and all the memories we had. This team means the world to me, and I'm going to miss them with my whole heart. They truly have become my second family."
- Alexis Engels (12)

Coaching Through The Decade

Throughout Gabany's years of coaching, many important moments have popped up in his career, and they truly have made him the coach you see today. Gabany stated, "Every team is different, even if most of the players are the same. The perspective might change in a player from one season to the next."



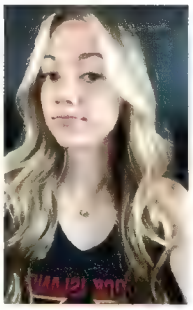
"My favorite memory would be winning my match."
- Man Nuam (11)

"I'd say the bus rides to and back from away meets were my favorite memory. It was really nice to sit and talk to my teammates."
- Emily O'Brien (10)

"My favorite memory is the bus ride back from Kewanee."
- Elaina Adlfinger (10)

Captain Alexis Engels (12)

"To me, being a captain means being a leader, and example for the team to look up to. Along with that, I want to be someone the athletes feel that they can talk and relate to, because everyone has a spot on this team, and they deserve to feel accepted and welcomed!"



Captain Alayna McKinley (11)

"To me, being a captain is setting the example for the team, always putting the team first, and being someone the athletes can talk to. It is important to me that everyone feels welcomed, and like they have a place on the team because everyone is an asset to the team!"

Acing The Competition

Throughout the Lady Rocks 2022 season, there were many high points. Overall, the ladies went 5-6, and made large strides in more technical skills through the season.

One major focus Coach Gabany had was to push his team's boundaries with their skills in the sport. He stated, "What I want them to do may be uncomfortable to them, or completely new, so it is pushing them to try new things, and to get them to understand how it will improve their overall performance as a tennis player." With these new strategies, the girls saw immense improvement in their game, along with their teamwork growing stronger, too. With the addition of incoming freshman Neima Rogers, the team could push their competitive edge.

The team also gained a new coach, Assistant Coach Rick Henry. Gabany explained, "New Assistant Coach Rick Henry brings a ton of tennis experience to the table, as well as a different perspective on the game. Both he and I work together constantly to find the best ways to help the players succeed."

The team continued with their success, as Alexis Engels and Alayna McKinley made an appearance as a doubles team this year, along with Leah Kitterman making noise in singles competition.

Varsity Players

"Tennis, to me, is more than just a sport. To be honest, it is my happy place. I am always at ease whenever I am playing. Being with the team is like being with family. They are always there when you need them. It is like a built in support system."
Leah Kitterman (10)

"Tennis, to me, is the way I express myself. It is also how I relieve a lot of the stress I get from school and outside of school. No matter how frustrated I get, I will always come back to it because I love it so much. It is more than a game to me."
Neima Rogers (9)

"I've played a lot of different sports throughout my life, and tennis was the only one that stuck with me. This sport has improved my mindset, and just, overall, made me a better person. Tennis means a lot to me."
Chloe Cooper (12)

"I would say my favorite memory from this tennis season would be the bus rides to and from tennis games, along with the practices we would have."
- Fedora Noya (9)

"I think my favorite memory was after my last game, when we were all just sitting in a circle, and talking to each other."
- Averi Vroman (9)

"My favorite memory from the team this season was probably the bus ride home because we usually have a fun time, with lots of things to say."
- Lah Set (11)

CAPTAINS

one
MOMENT
you'll
remember

"Placing second overall at the Moline tournament."
Ethan Smithson

GAME. SET. MATCH.

ORDER ON THE COURT

ROCKY BOYS TENNIS TAKEOVER

"Our Varsity players were a very close knit group that have played together for years. I have great memories from all of the tournaments that we competed in," said Coach Christopher Gabany, highlighting the 2022 Spring Tennis season. The camaraderie within this group has made this season so memorable. Working together, as mostly juniors and seniors, the Varsity Team was able to dive deeper into tennis strategies, since the top players had lots of playing experience.

While there were no newcomers at the Varsity level, the team returned many upperclassmen athletes. Ian Empen and Peh Lay were appointed as team captains. Captains are chosen by coaches, or voted on by players. As a coach, Gabany says he is looking for players who "progress from one day to the next, but it all has to do with how hard they are working at getting better."

Even though the team didn't have the record they hoped for, the Rocks kept each match very close. Senior Ethan Smithson's favorite memory was placing second at the Moline Tournament. He and Senior Julian Anderson also advanced to the second round at Sectionals. After dealing with restricted seasons, the team was finally able to get back to a normal season, and re-experience working together on the court!

ROCKS REMEMBER

FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM THE SEASON

"Getting closer with the other guys on the team, and watching each other improve throughout the season."
- Nate Gottcent

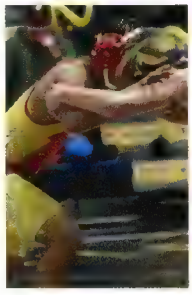
"Camanche. We played indoor for the first time."
- Dario Ware

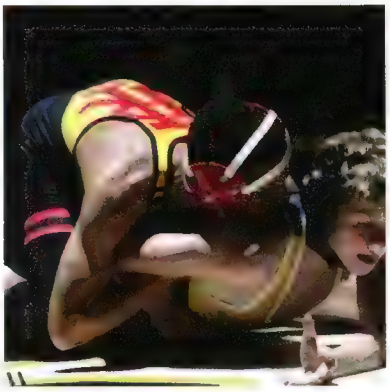
"When I won a whole game just by aces in Galesburg."
- Nathaniel Cruz

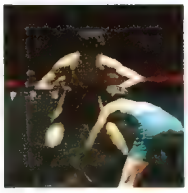
one **MOMENT** you'll remember

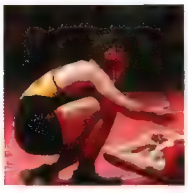
"My favorite moment is going to team State."
- Steven Marquez

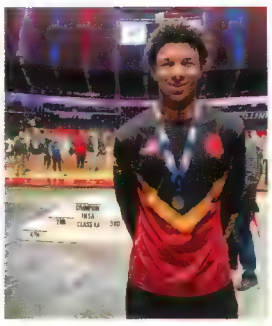
ROCKING REGIONALS

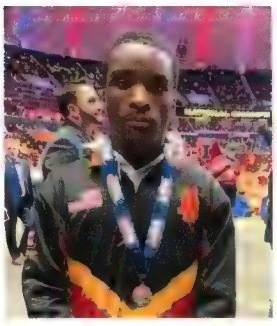


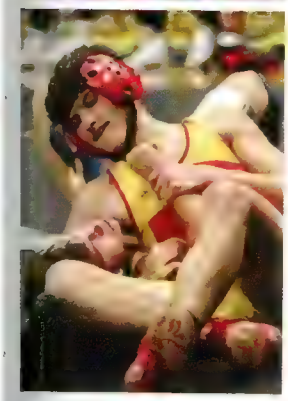


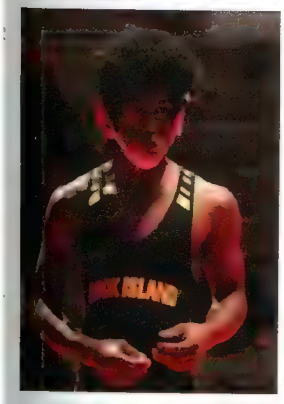












WRESTLING FOR THE

This year, the RIHS Wrestling Team's goal was to make it to State. Not only did they achieve this goal, but they had seven athletes qualify for State, a new record! Coach Stockwell noted, "My favorite memory from this season is winning all of our blood round matches at Sectionals and State."

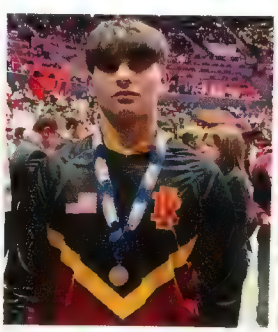
Steven Marquez, Truth Vesey, Daniel McGhee, Andrew Marquez, Amare Overton, Samuel Niyonkuru, and Triston Willoughby were the standout wrestlers this season, with newcomer Temar Hudson "stepping up as a freshman, and helping the team in any way he could," Stockwell said.

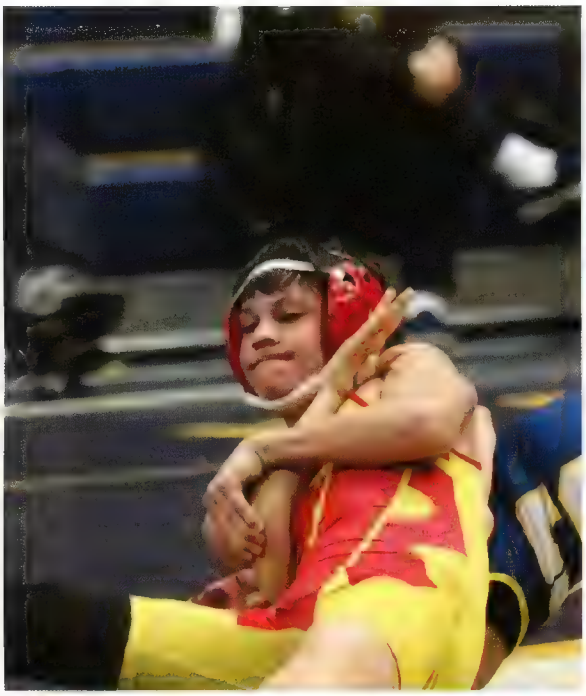
While the team did face challenges this season, like weight control, eligibility, injuries, and work schedules, the Rocks persisted. They wrestled well at Regionals (with 7 champions and 10 Sectional Qualifiers), and ultimately, 7 State Qualifiers. Even the State Meet had its challenges. "It was very satisfying to send so many wrestlers to State this year. It was also very stressful. It takes a great amount of work for the coaches and wrestlers to compete at State. Besides competing over 3 days, the wrestlers and coaches must navigate between facilites for warm ups and competition for each round of wrestling. The athletes also have to consider their weight and diet. The emotional and psychological side of it is also grueling, especially, when there are so many wrestlers that keep winning. It was a satisfying and draining weekend for all- Sammy Niyonkuru, Truth Vesey (5th), Daniel McGhee (5th), Triston Willoughby, Amare Overton (5th), Steven Marquez (3rd), and Andrew Marquez, Finalist (2nd)," Stockwell explained.

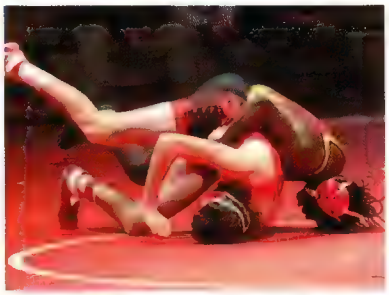
Coach Stockwell hopes his athletes carry what they have learned from the program beyond their high school years. He stated, "What makes wrestling unique is not only the amount of work it takes to become elite, but also the self-discipline to cut weight and train outside of practice. The competition is unlike any other high school sport, as well. Individuals are pitted against their opponent. Win or lose, there are no others to blame or take the credit. It is only the individual and their training that will determine the outcome. These reasons are why so few student athletes can endure and be successful in the sport. Unfortunately, most are not tough enough mentally or physically to compete at a high level. My favorite aspect is the resilience it takes to be a Rock Island Wrestler. Watching the student athletes endure and persevere is very rewarding. I know that they have acquired the tools to overcome future obstacles in their lives. Wrestling creates life champions!"

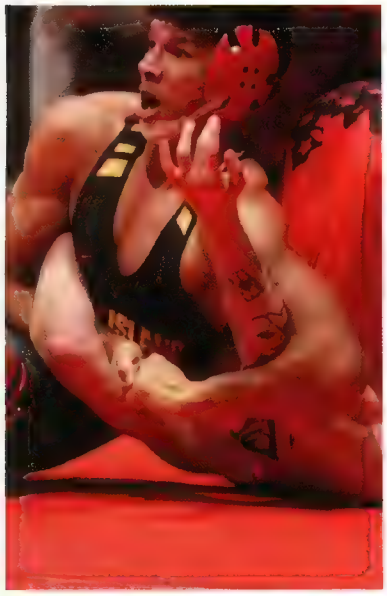
ROCKING THE STATE MEET

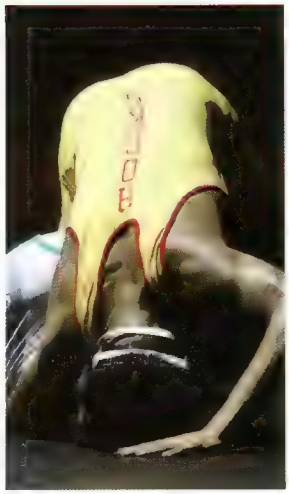
Stand out athletes, Truth Vesey, Daniel McGhee, Andrew Marquez, Steven Marquez, Triston Willoughby, Samuel Niyonkuru, and Amare Overton made Rocky history by competing at State this year.

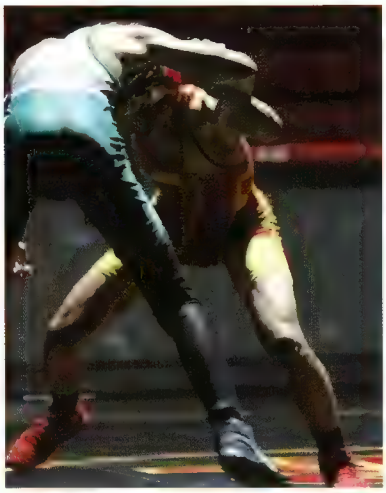
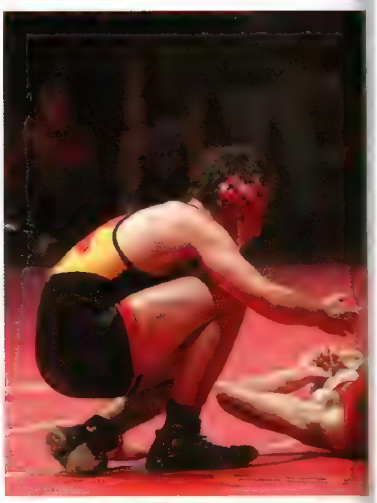










one **ASPECT** of the game to love

"Golf is an independent sport, so the friendships you make are special."
- Coach Sharp

For Rocky's Boys' Golf Team, the sport of golf is more than a hobby or a game. "Golf is a game of honor and sportsmanship and integrity," Coach Sharp said.

Sharp has led the RIHS golfers for 9 years, and has served as an assistant coach for 6 years.

Golf is mostly an independent sport, which makes this team's bond very special. "Our kids had good chemistry, and they enjoyed spending time together, which is always nice," Coach Sharp stated.

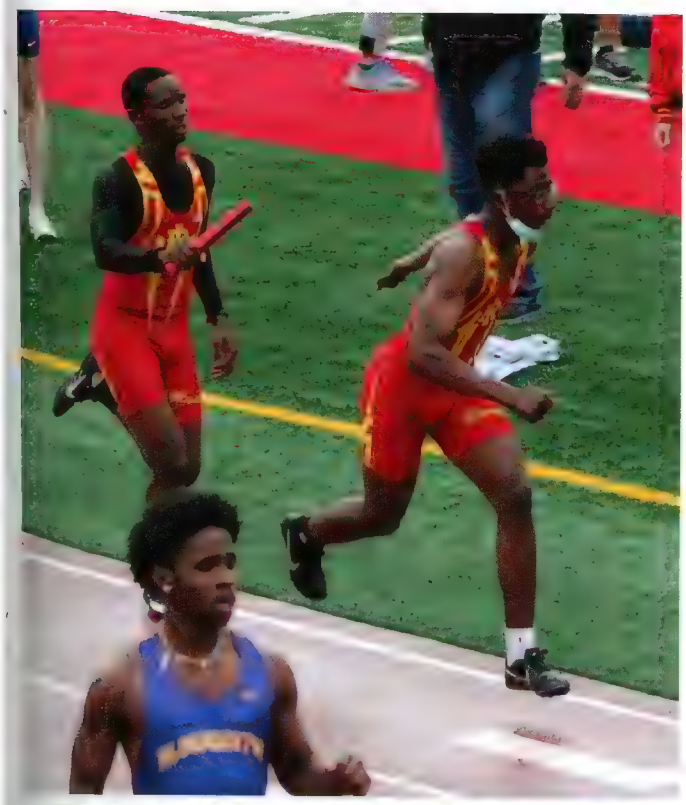
The team faced some challenges that they later overcame this season. "We had very little experience, due to the lack of seniors on the squad. It took awhile, but the young players stepped up," said Coach Sharp.

The team was led by Chase Hadley and Carson Banks, both of whom qualified for Sectionals. Sharp stated, "Chase Hadley was First Team All Conference, so that is really good, especially for a sophomore. And, we beat a very strong Moline team in a dual meet, which was fun."

"For decades, Rock Island High School Boys Track and Field experienced unparalleled excellence under Ed Lillis's leadership. He was a key assistant coach when I was a student-athlete back in the late 80's and 1990's. His impact on the lives of so many young people, including myself, extends beyond the track and field. Many of his former athletes have achieved success in various life pursuits because of his time and investment in us when we were Rocks."
- Coach Jarrin Williams

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"I will always remember the pole vault practices. They were all my favorite, especially with my teammates."
- Gunnar Carroll



One More

RUN AROUND ROCKY

Last season's greatest accomplishments consisted of staying motivated and working hard, even in the face of the great challenges. According to Coach Lillis, the boys' main goal was, "To improve every week. And we did." Lillis continued, stating, "Everyone learned to never give up, even when the going was tough."

The upperclassmen leaders were Darius Tongo, Reponze Muhoza, and Asa Mahn. The freshmen and sophomores were a "very strong" group, including Dai Shaun McCaw, Omar Sosa, Santana Smith, and DeShawn Rucker. They all left an impact on the team, making them excited for the season ahead.

This season was the last one for Lillis, who retired after a fifty year career at the Rock.

Lillis Leaves a Legacy

Coach Lillis hopes to leave a legacy for his boys after retiring. He says, "Track is a pure sport. It can teach a person many lessons about personal character and toughness." After 50 years of coaching, Lillis definitely leaves a legacy of excellence and great character.

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"Spending time and hanging out with them at school, after school, and on weekends, because it was the best time of my life."
- Alexis Carroll

Freshmen On Varsity

Last year's Varsity Team included a rare four freshmen, including: Jozie Kerr (Far Left), A'rion Lonergan-Shinskia (Middle Left), Madison Carroll (Middle Right), and Grace Vidmar (Far Right).

"I had the privilege to coach some great young ladies the past 8 years at Rocky. I also was one of the luckiest coaches to be able to coach both of my daughters, Bailey (2017) and Bella (2022). We were able to be part of a great program the past 8 years, and got to do it as a family. Anyone that coaches their daughter knows that it has many challenges, but in the long run, it becomes one of the best memories that we got to share together."
- Coach Chris Allison

COACH ALLISON SAYS

Goodbye

Continuing a Tradition of Victory

It is only fitting that a historic season has a historical ending. Lady Rocks Softball finished the season with a stellar 22-6 record, with nine seniors leading the way to a Regional Championship, and the 5th Conference Championship in a row. Lady Rocks Softball continued the tradition of carrying the iconic Red and Gold to victory.

Leaders were quite prominent on this team, at every level. Coach Allison highlights, "Taylor Pannell (now a freshman at the University of Tennessee), Bella Allison, Gabby Taber, Campbell Kelley, Delia Shwartz, Sydney Quinones, and Alexis Carroll" among the team leaders. Leadership is an important quality that Head Coach Chris Allison continues to teach in his athletes.

Whether it's on or off the field, the players are held to the highest standard. Every athlete who passes through the Lady Rocks Softball Program is taught the basic principles that Allison reiterates time and time again, "Play the game the right way, have fun, and do the little things right."

Gabriella Taber

Mackenzie Brokaw

Bailey Proffitt

Delia Schwartz

Mallory Day

Bella Allison

Sydney Quinones

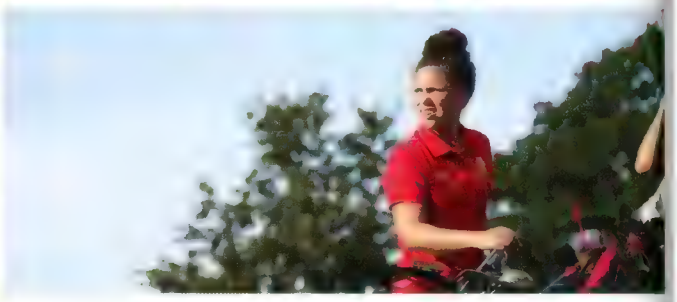
Taylor Pannell

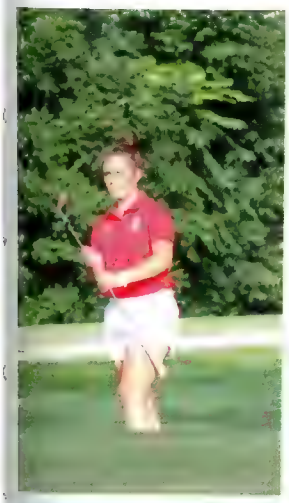
Campbell Kelley

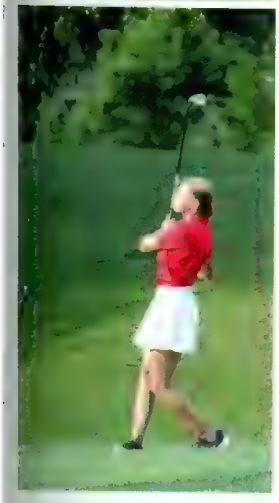
one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"The laughs and the funny jokes we made on the bus will always be something I remember and cherish, as new teammates come, and we all eventually go."
- Jozie Kerr

Head Girls Golf Coach Julie Hudnall is in her second year coaching the Rock Island Lady Rocks golfers, and she loves leading the team. Hudnall expressed how fortunate she feels to spend so much time with such an amazing group of girls.







"I hope they realize how close they got."

Fore of a Kind

Rock Island Girls Golf may be small, but they make up for it with heart (and laughs.)

The Lady Rocks Golf Team tells an inspiring tale of how special it can be to form bonds with teammates. Rocky has a beautiful history of successful sports teams at all levels, and this year's Girls Golf Team highlighted the importance of friendship.

Head Coach Julie Hudnall has a lot of pride for Rock Island sports, so it's only natural that she carries her inspiring attitude into her coaching. The girls finished with a record of 7-14-1, and took 5th place in Conference. For the team only having four girls, the record wasn't Hudnall's main focus, the team synergy was.

Of course, small numbers come with their own struggles. Hudnall expressed, "The challenge this year was that our numbers were low- so every meet, everyone had to try and do their best because all the scores counted. We had to really work on our mental game, and realize that golf was one shot at a time. We had to work on making sure that a number did not define us."

Lady Rocks Golf was successful in applying this mentality in all levels of their game. Hudnall highlights, "Mallory Hudnall made a great impact with our returners. Lily McDaniel, for never playing, made great improvements, as well."

Overall, the young women of Lady Rocks Golf had a great season, despite size, because of their unique team dynamic.

MEET THE GIRLS

Chloe Turner, 11th Grade

Jozie Kerr, 10th Grade

Lillian McDaniel, 10th Grade

Mallory Hudnall, 9th Grade

SWING TO SUCCESS >>>>>

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"We didn't just play like a team, we played like a family."
- Emedi Wilondja

Freshman Team

JV Team

LET THE *feet* DO THE TALKING

Kicking into the 2022 season, the Rocks had to transition to their new coach, Coach Sandoval. He said, "I have a deep passion for the game of soccer, and I find it very rewarding to share that love of the sport with people who want to learn about it." Coach Sandoval continued to encourage his athletes to be passionate about the game throughout the season.

Some of the young men who really made an impact on the season, other than their captains, Aidan and Di Sae, were Benjamin Goeh, Eh Kaw Ku, and Ler Bwe, along with other great underclassmen.

The Rocks faced many internal obstacles, while trying to get in the groove of this transition season, but they still played their hardest. The team went 2-5 in the Western Big 6, and 6-16 in regular season play. Despite having a difficult season, the Rocks still found time to have fun on the bus rides, or when they stopped for team dinners.

One of the accomplishments of the season was the ability to stay competitive most of the time in every match they played. Coach Sandoval stated, "Even though we did not win all of them, being able to stay within a goal, or force a team into overtime multiple times says a lot about what kind of team we have." The Rocks are eager to battle on the pitch again next season.

Varsity Team

2022 SEASON

Memories

"The bus rides."
- Benjamin Goeh

"Bus rides and snacks."
- Ler Bwe

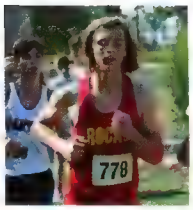
"Bus rides on the way and back with the team."
- Di Sae Khu

"When we were practicing together and laughing together."
- Emedi Wilondja

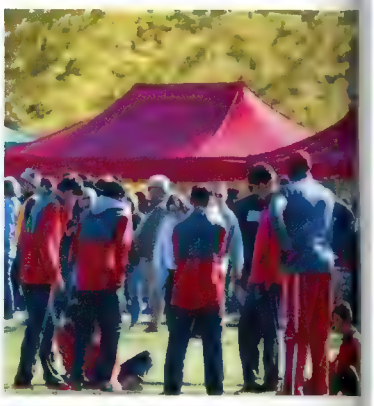
"Scoring two goals in one game, and hanging out with the team."
- Aidan Ntinyegezwa

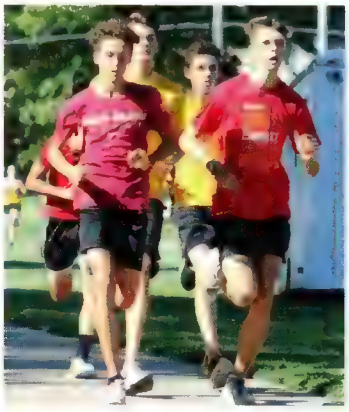
MORE THAN A TEAM

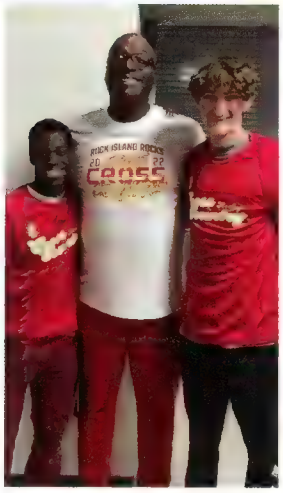
"The amount of time we spend with each other in practice really helps to build team bonds. I think that our team extends beyond our time competing. In the season and off season, we are a friend group that runs cross country."
- Gabriel Mahn, 9



"We build a team bond simply through talking with each other and getting to know each other. I feel I have developed a pretty tight bond with the other runners."
- Henry Mass, 9







one MOMENT you'll remember

"What I'll remember most would be the team dinners and the bus rides after the meet."
- Braeden Baker

"We are all very good friends, who go out and have fun at practice, and help each other."
- Merrick Stockwell, 10

"I would say that the boys on the team are all my friends. I really enjoy being with them, and it is fun to see them in the halls, and say hi to them."
- Lukas Heine, 10

"I 100% think we are more than a team, and I would consider all of them much more than just teammates. There's nothing I wouldn't do for my team, or anyone on it. I wouldn't want any other team, but the one I have at Rocky."
- Jayden Putnam, 11

ROCKY'S YEAR

THE RUNNING ROCKS 2022

A lot of people don't think about running as a sport. Many don't think about running at all. The Boys' Cross Country Team, however, train consistently from June to November. They run long millage at a fast pace, day to day. "When individuals felt like taking their foot off of the gas for awhile, they were reminded of how their work would benefit the team in the long run," Captain Asa Mahn said. The Boys' Cross Country Team wanted to make sure that this season, they finished strong, and left an impact, announcing to everyone, that they are here, and they are ready. "We are going to make them notice," Coach Williams said in the *QC Times*.

The boys team placed fourth in the WB6 Conference Meet, with freshman Gabriel Mahn and junior Ian Regur placing 1st Team All Conference, and junior Jayden Putnam placing 2nd Team. At Regionals, the team placed 2nd. At Sectionals, they placed 5th overall, and qualified for State.

"We [the team] have been having this conversation about bringing Rock Island Boys Cross Country back to a level of respectability," Coach Williams also said in the *QC Times*. Captain Asa Mahn, echoes these views, stating "Our team experienced a great deal of ups and downs this season. However, I believe that this year was a success. This team returned Rock Island Cross Country to a place of respectability." The Varsity Team went to State as a team this year, being the first time since 2006 to earn that honor. Not only that, but since Coach Williams has been Rocky's coach, he has never had anyone go to State. This year was Rocky's Year!

CAPTAINS
[Leaders of the Team]

"Being a captain shaped me as an athlete by making me want the best for the team, and me. Being a captain affected my motivation this season by giving me another reason to put it all out there on race day, and give it my all."
- Ian Regur, 11

"Being a captain caused me to put forth a great deal of effort as an athlete, hoping that our peers will observe that behavior and replicate it."

- Asa Mahn, 11

The 2022-23 Varsity Boys Basketball Team worked hard this season to develop as a team, and finished the year with a 7-7 record (Western Big 6) and a 21-13 overall record. "Our goals were to carry on the strong tradition of Rock Island Basketball. We also wanted to be competitive in the WB6, along with post season play. We didn't finish as high as we wanted in the Conference, but were able to take home another Regional Title for our program. That is something that we are always proud of," said Head Coach Marc Polite, on the team's goals for the season.

Not only did the team set goals, but Coach Polite explained how much the team could take pride in as the season ended. "I was proud of how we represented ourselves and our program during some tough stretches. There were times we could have folded, but we showed Rocky Pride, and were able to continue to have a successful season. I believe that this year is a solid building block for an even better season next year," explained Polite. Success is earned, and the Rock Island Rocks Basketball Team persevered and worked hard to live up to their team's potential.

Every season has unique challenges, but the Rocks learned a lot from obstacles they faced this year. Coach Polite stated, "We faced quite a few challenges, both from how well we played, to challenges we faced away from the game. We dealt with some bad luck, and also some bad decision making, at times. Those things happen during a season. What I loved about this group is that they continued to mature and grow from those mistakes, and that was evident in how we ended the season." Growing and developing into not only better players, but also better people is the key to creating a strong and confident team. The Rocks strove for greatness, and did not let any challenges get in their way.

The Rocks are eager to progress and come back even stronger next year.

TEAM CAPTAINS

"It means a lot to be able to be one of the leaders on this team, and set an example for the younger guys. I always looked up to the older guys / team captains before me, so it's an honor."
- Cam Atkinson

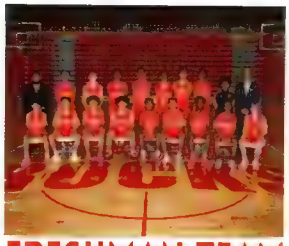
"It feels great to have the opportunity to lead a group of such fine gentlemen to success."
- Terrmell Akers

SENIOR NIGHT

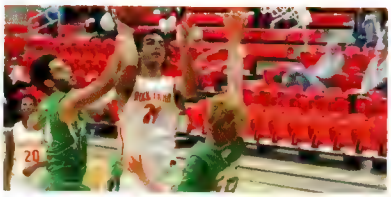
ROCK ISLAND BOYS BASKETBALL PROGRAM

VARSITY TEAM

SOPHOMORE TEAM



FRESHMAN TEAM



BEYOND BASKETBALL

"Listening to music on the speaker before games with my teammates."
- KJ LaMonte

"Hitting the buzzer beater 3 pointer against Sterling, and celebrating with the students."
- Marcus McQueen

"Going to the State Farm Tournament, and staying in the hotel."
- D'Vonte Cartwright

"The bus rides and bonding with the team."
- Brayden Marshall

"I enjoy the bus rides and team bonding."
- Larry Olivier

"I enjoy the memories I make with my teammates, and experiencing our mprovement throughout the season."
- Dezmund Jackson

"Being with my teammates, joking around, and being competitive in practice."
- Alex Romo

"Starting in the Iowa vs. Illinois Shootout."
- Joe Allen

2023

one MOMENT you'll remember

"When my teammates and I got lost walking around in Bloomington at our State Farm Tournament."
- Javarion Thompson

CROSS COUNTRY FAMILY

Girls Cross Country took 4th at the WB6 Conference, and they have been moving up one place each year, a trend they hope to continue. Coach Susana Williams is most proud of the girls qualifying for Sectionals as a team. She says, "I was extra proud of Mackenzie and Mary for qualifying individually for State."

Each meet brings the possibility of improvement, both individually, and as a team. This allows a healthy competition between the team, and challenges the girls to work hard at their sport.

Eva Essman and Ulana Richey had a big impact on the team this year, with both of them dropping a lot of time over the season.

Next year, Coach Williams would like to have her girls running more as a team over the summer, rather than individually, and hopes to build more chemistry through team bonding activities.

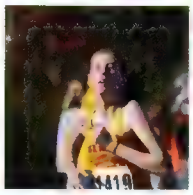
one **MOMENT** you'll remember

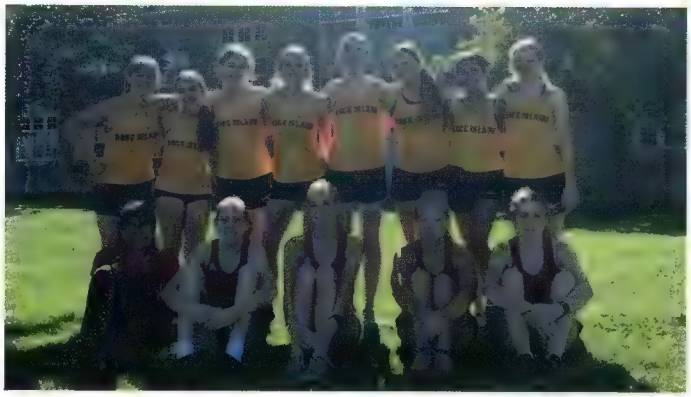
"Going to State with Mary and the boys!"
- Mackenzie Meirhaeghe

Scarlett Hoeppner (Freshman) First Year

Rebecca Maess (Freshman) First Year

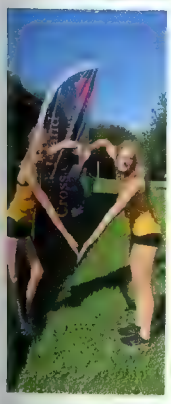
Ulana Richey (Freshman) First Year





Keziah Anderson (Sophomore) First Year

Olivia Kargl (Sophomore) Second Year



SOON TO BE SENIORS!

Distance running is a very intense sport, not only physically, but also mentally. These juniors plan to prepare for their senior year in all of their own unique ways.

"I want to really work on running more over the off season. I plan to get more mileage in, and have an overall better training plan."

- Eva Essman

"I will continue working towards a healthier mindset and body to improve myself overall, as a person, to be the best athlete and teammate I can be."

- Cheyeane Stanley

"I plan to prepare for next year's season by staying in shape during off season, so I can have the best senior year possible."

- Mary Stockdale

"I'm going to run outside as much as I can before it gets too cold. And then, I'm switching over to indoor track, lifting, and running on a treadmill."

- Norah Wright

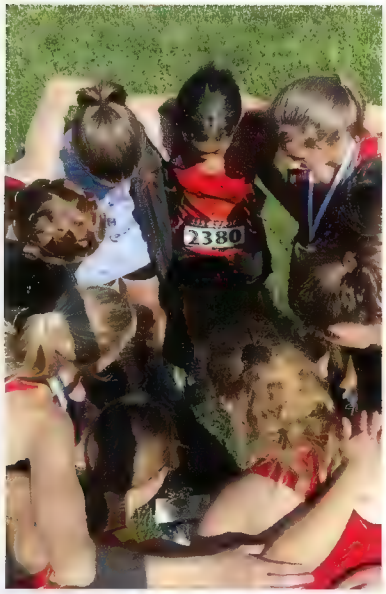
"My goal is to stay consistent and workout through winter. Then, when the weather becomes warmer, I will try to run a few times a week."

- Maryam Alhamdan

WHERE WILL WE GO?

Mackenzie Meirhaeghe is currently still deciding between WIU and Augustana.

Makenzie Terry plans to attend college to become a surgeon in Montana.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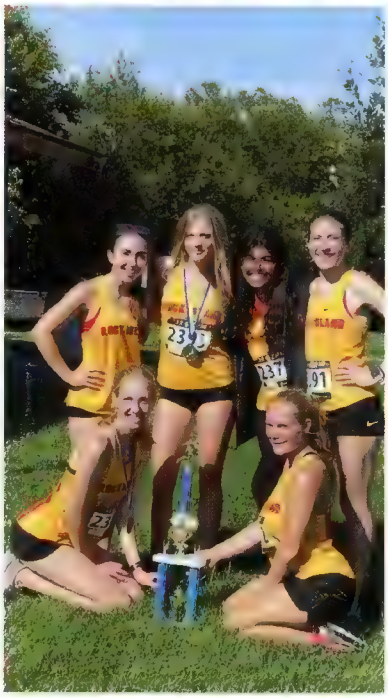
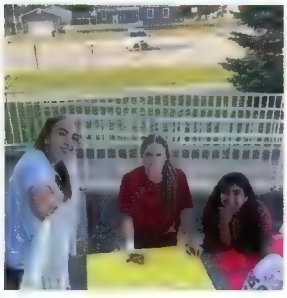
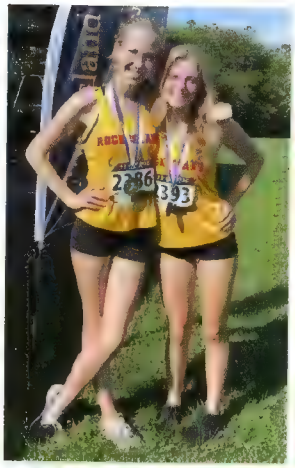
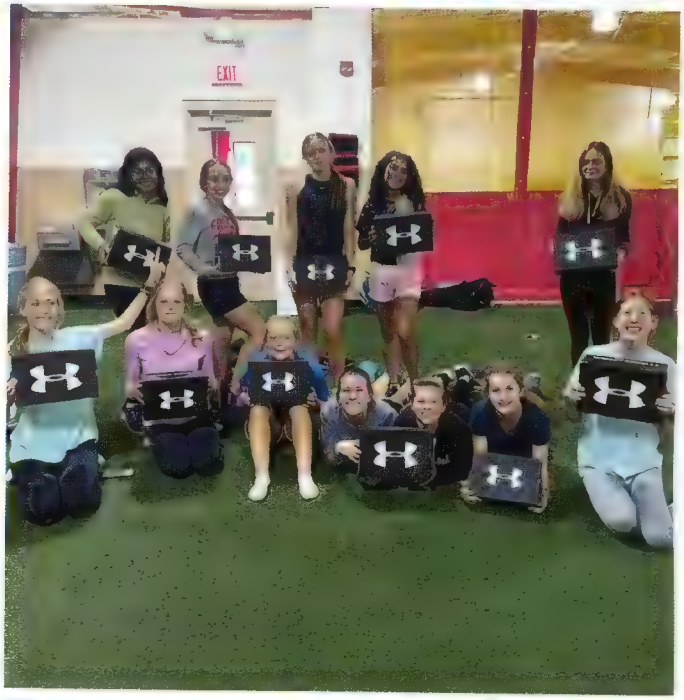




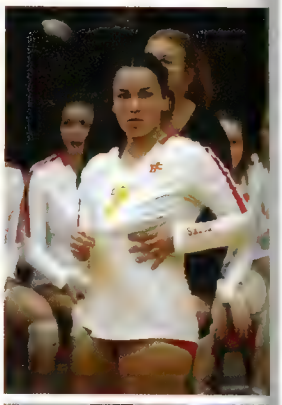




one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"My favorite memory this season is winning Regionals."
- Addie Bomelyn, 11

SENIOR



ROCKY'S
2022
VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Head Coach

"Our 2022 team was able to win back to back Regional titles (2021 and 2022), which were our first Regional titles since 2013, when I was a junior at Rocky."
- **Coach Morgan Gray**, on the success of this year's team

Assistant Coach

"I love being able to be a part of a program that shaped me into the player/ coach I am today. It gave me opportunities to play at the next level, and now, I am able to take those experiences and lessons, and give back to the players who are currently in the program. It is an amazing opportunity to be able to contribute to the RIVB program, as a player and a coach."
- **Coach Haley Sigel**, on coaching for Rock Island volleyball

ANOTHER YEAR ANOTHER REGIONAL

With a great mentality and good team chemistry, the RI Volleyball Team can do anything they put their minds to on the court, and lead their team to a great victory and successful season.

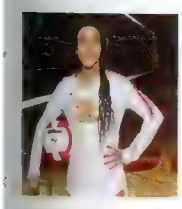
The 2022 Volleyball Team finished their season with a 22-13 overall record, and second place finish in the Western Big Six Conference. "This year, our team chemistry really made a difference," says senior, Mari Churchill. Mari says that she believes the "countless team dinners" and "endless laughs" helped the team develop trust, and created amazing bonds, making the Lady Rocks successful on the court. Senior and team captain, Kayla Rice also believes that this team's chemistry had a very positive impact on the court, especially during the post season. Kayla describes the team's chemistry to be "like no other."

Kayla and Mari also agree that without the help of their Head Coach Morgan Gray and Assistant Coach Haley Sigel, who both played volleyball at Rocky during their high school years, they would not have been able to "face adversity with mental toughness," as well as, win another Regional title.

Mental toughness is something the team focused a lot on this season. Mari explains that when the team started focusing on their mentality during the games, they performed better than ever. Overall, both coaches, and the team, especially, are very proud of each other and the outcome of the 2022 volleyball season.

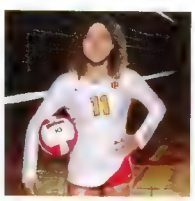
SUPPORT from the STUDENTS

The Rock Island Girls Volleyball Team loves to support their teammates on the sideline. Whether they are in or out of the game, their energy is unmatched! The student section provides motivation and power to the volleyball team, as they face their rivals, the Moline Maroons.



"I feel honored that my team looks at me as a leader. It makes me feel more confident."

Kayla Rice, Senior



"It feels great. I love my team, and I'm happy to be one of the captains."

Quinci Bumgarner, Senior

"It's an honor, and definitely something I'm grateful for."

Sienna Mikaio, Senior

VARSITY TEAM CAPTAINS

Game Day ESSENTIALS

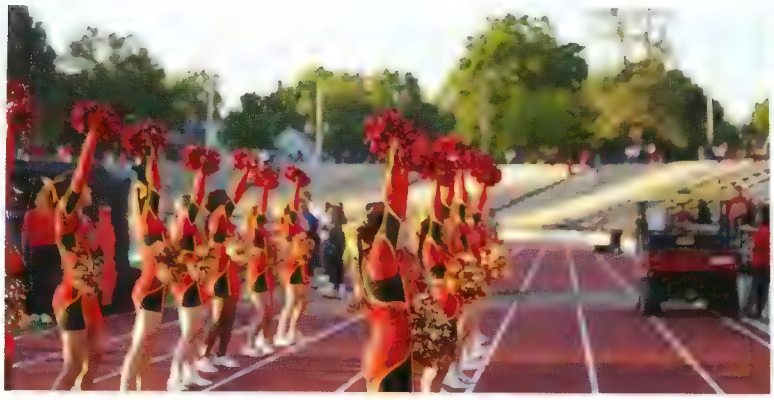
"The one thing I always bring, since I'm a cheerleader, is a smile and positive energy!"
Ceci Padilla, 11

"At every game, I have to wear my coconut chap-stick with shimmery lip gloss. If I don't have my lip gloss, I get all confused and out of place."
Francesca Guyette, 9

"Perfume and makeup! I always have it in my bag because it just makes me feel good, and I feel like I perform better when I have them."
Vanessa Boswell, 9

"During halftime, I always go and get a Snickers to be reminded to always laugh and have fun with my teammates because they mean so much to me!! I also really love Snickers."
Nevaeh McQuay, 10

"Blue Gatorade, for sure. Blue Gatorade is my #1 thing to have on game day, and it HAS to be blue, or else it's a weird game."
Jade Gasper, 11



TO IMPROVE IS TO CHANGE

This past season for the cheerleaders looked a bit different than it has in the years before, from new coaches, having fall tryouts, bigger squads, and even finding new ways to adapt to the sudden changes throughout the season. Coach Munday said, "There were a lot of changes for these cheerleaders, and they took each one of the changes amazingly well. They were given a new coaching staff, and started the season two months later than normal. They always did what was needed to get the job done." The squad overcame every obstacle thrown their way, while still maintaining positivity around each other. Junior, Eva Essman, stated, "There was an overall more positive environment this year, and there was more support all around." There is always room to improve, and the cheerleaders and coaches made sure this season was full of improvements.

Coach Munday was once a cheerleader for the Rocks, and she explained how she was so happy to be coaching, and is genuinely very proud of the school. She remembers all of the traditions, and how much she loved them, so she encourages her athletes to do the same. Similarly, Essman enjoys helping with the kid's cheer clinic, and performing with the kids at a football game, as well as being someone kids can look up to, and notice how much fun being a cheerleader is.

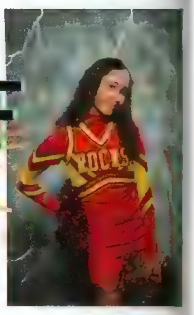
With all of the obstacles the team overcame, staying motivated and positive was crucial to reach the end of the season. Coach Munday said, "I always preach the importance of building each other up, especially as cheerleaders. I tell them once they put on that uniform, they are representing Rock Island, and it is their responsibility to make sure they are doing it well." She explained that the biggest change she saw this season was the cheerleaders showing up for themselves, and being the best versions they could be.

Coach Munday explained her favorite memory from the season was watching the cheerleaders nail their Homecoming performance. With only about two weeks to put it all together, the Varsity Squad pushed through, and made it happen. Essman said the Homecoming performance was the biggest challenge, but by working together and maintaining good energy, the team was able to accomplish everything they had hoped for.

one MOMENT you'll remember

"Flying with Varsity as a freshman."
Kaiya McKinley, 12

SPIRIT OF THE ROCKS

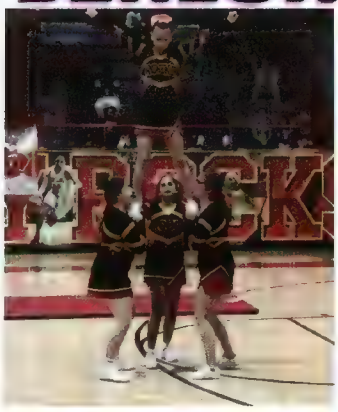


Head Coach Patricia Gallegos had high expectations for her cheerleaders this year, as they took on the winter seasons, which includes Girls and Boys Basketball Cheer, as well as Competition Cheer. She stated, "We really wanted to focus on positivity. For the competitions, we just focused on taking the feedback from the judges, and making adjustments to improve each competition. Each squad worked to perfect sideline cheers, as well as perform an entertaining halftime routine for each Senior Night."

The Rocky Cheerleaders had some challenges during this season, but still handled them well. Coach Gallegos said, "One big challenge we faced right off the bat was getting a late start on summer practices. I got hired as head coach in June, and got three new assistants hired in July, which didn't leave us much time to get the cheerleaders prepared before football season started. Our numbers dropped during basketball season for a variety of reasons. We continued to focus on positivity, and I think that has helped us to have a successful season."

Despite the challenges, Coach Gallegos hopes her athletes still learn a lot from the program. She explained, "I hope that each athlete learns that cheerleaders are more than just standing on the sideline, shaking pompoms. We are athletes, who work hard to promote good sportsmanship, pride in our school, and positivity. I hope they learn that they are strong, resilient young ladies and gentlemen, who are capable of doing anything they put their minds to."

SENIOR NIGHT!



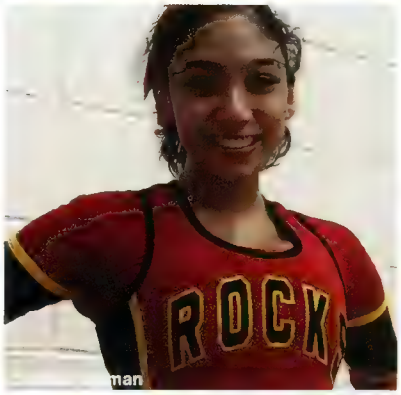
CHERISHED MOMENTS

"The Turkey Tournament! We all had back to back games, and I just bonded with all my teammates."
- Laticia McCray Brown

"When we had our first practice, and getting to know everyone, and becoming like a family."
- Lincoln Perez

"Just getting to know more people, and building relationships with your team and coaches."
- Cristina Aleman

NEWCOMERS 2022-2023



Varsity Girls Basketball Cheer

Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Cheer

Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Cheer

Varsity Boys Basketball Cheer

MEET THE

"My favorite part of Competitive Cheer is seeing how far we've come since the beginning of the season."
- Eva Essman

"I liked getting ready for the competitions, and feeling the support from everyone in the stands."
- Josie Driskill

"My favorite part would have to be the actual performing aspect, because I am in dance, and perform all the time, but cheering in high school is something you can only do once."
- Cienna Reed

"My favorite part of being on the floor is definitely the emotions and the adrenaline that I get when we're on the floor."
- Gaby Gonzalez

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"My best moment was when we finished our routine, and the crowd gets loud, and cheered us on."
- Kyra Allen

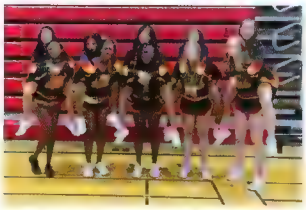
READY TO Rock Floor

In the 2022-23 Competitive Cheer season, Coach Emily Witherspoon explained that the team goals "were to have fun and make memories," which they achieved from their long bus rides, getting ready in dressing rooms, and dancing together while waiting for awards. The team also worked hard to hit every stunt.

Because the Competitive Cheer Team has a shorter season, Coach Witherspoon said, "I choreographed the entire routine in the beginning of December. I started with choreographing dances, and then, I focused on choosing stunts for us to incorporate." Despite the team being smaller in size (the team had 10 members, rather than the usual 15-20), the girls still worked to do their best at their competitions.

Coach Witherspoon explained, "Our greatest accomplishment was the cheerleaders performing their hardest at EVERY competition! They gave it their all, and as coaches, that's all we can ask for!"

ROCK ISLAND



Competitive CHEER

Seven new juniors tried out for the Rock Island Boys Bowling Team, for the first time this year. After losing 5 seniors last year, to gaining 7 new juniors, the team was thrilled to continue with the growth in the squad, and have the excitement from the young high school athletes, who are ready to learn.

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"One moment I'll remember is going to Sectionals freshman year."
- Kaden Witt

Rock Island Boys Bowling

The Rock Island Boys Bowling Team might strike you as a fun team to be on (which it is), but it is also one of the most competitive teams to be a part of. With such a big team, the boys compete in their practices to try and make a spot to bowl in bigger tournaments, such as Varsity only meets, or just making a spot on Junior Varsity, in general. "I love the competitiveness between everyone," Josh Brown said.

Coach Tapscott explained, "Kaden Witt had the highest average for the season, and was a good team leader, and also made it to State Sectionals. Austin Cantrell was our second highest average bowler, and we had a great improvement from Gabe Richardson and David Axnix. One of the newcomers who really stood out was Alex Jackson, as he had very little experience, but just took off, and was a real leader on the team."

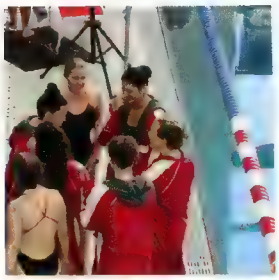
This year, the team's goal was, "To improve from last year. We were young and did not have a lot of experience. We really moved up this year. These big tournaments had lots of really good teams, and we finished each one so much better than last year," Tapscott stated. The team won 5 single matches out of 9, and really improved in the big tournaments, finishing 2nd of 14 in Dixon, 3rd out of 12 in Geneseo, and 2nd out of 8 in Abingdon. In the big tournaments, the Rocks placed 10th out of 22 in Joliet, 9th out of 22 in Freeport, and 14th out of 44 in Peoria. They just missed getting to Sectionals as a team, with a 6th place finish.

Even though it's a challenge, and a competitive team to be on, the boys still enjoy great camaraderie. The positivity everyone keeps while bowling is something that helps make the team successful. Being a good bowler means the athletes must be consistent, and have a good mindset, which is something all these boys show. Moving forward, the team is hoping to make some unforgetta-bowl memories next season!

Juniors Take Over

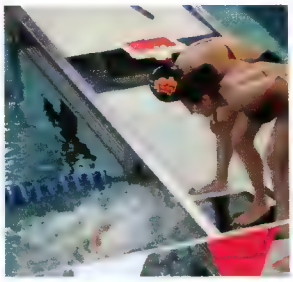
With a team of 18, the Boys Bowling Squad has 13 juniors, with 7 of these juniors new to the sport, and 6 are returning athletes. Two of the bowlers are seniors, and three of them are sophomores.

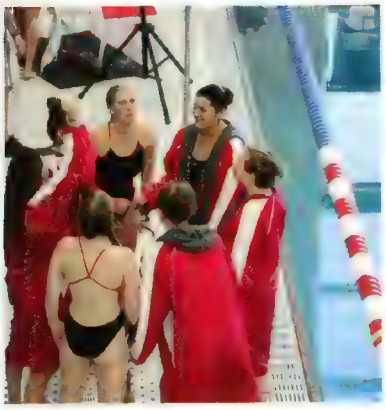
LET'S DIVE

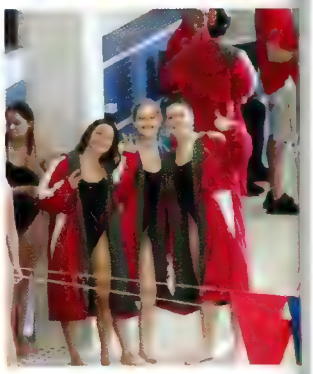


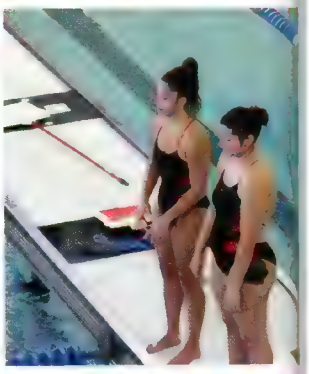
one MOMENT you'll remember

"My favorite memory from this season would have b be the day we did diving practice, instead of swimming. We all had so much fun watching each other attempt the different dives."
- Gracelynn Veys









ROCKY 2022 Girls Swim Team

SMALL, BUT LOYAL

The Girls' Swim Team faced a lot of challenges this season, but maintained a positive attitude, and battled through. Coach Busch said one of the biggest challenges was not having a home pool. He said he was proud of the girls for "staying with the season, with all of the challenges they faced, as far as not having a home pool, and using three different pools over the course of the season." While the team struggled with numbers, they made up for their quantity of athletes with quality of athletes.

Even with the challenges they faced, they were still a team. Coach Busch said the greatest aspect about coaching swimming was, "Seeing the girls work really hard to get better, even though we have a small team." Coach Busch has been coaching swimming for forty-three years. He describes the team as, "small, but loyal." Coach Busch described his team leaders as "able to keep everyone engaged, and to have ideas on fun things to do outside of the pool." He explained this year's team leaders were Bailey Hecker and Rajet Rodriguez.

Leaders in the Pool

Rajet Rodriguez

"The swim team is a wonderful place to get close to some people, and just have fun after the hard stuff is over."

Gracelynn Veys

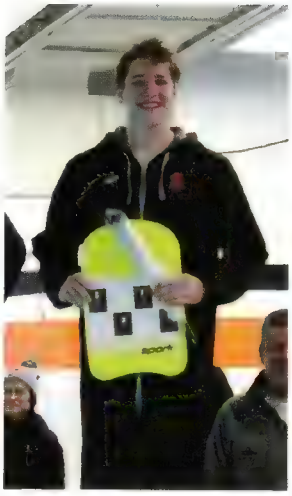
"Being a part of the swim team gave me new friends and a better mindset for accomplishing my goals. More girls should join the swim team because it's a fun experience that helps you meet new people. My favorite memory from this season would have to be the day we did diving practice instead of swimming. We all had so much fun watching each other attempt the different dives."

Bailey Hecker

"The most valuable thing you gain from being a Lady Rock is the relationships you build with your teammates. It's a one of a kind bond that I've never been able to replicate, and I feel like that's the most appealing thing to people that are thinking about joining."

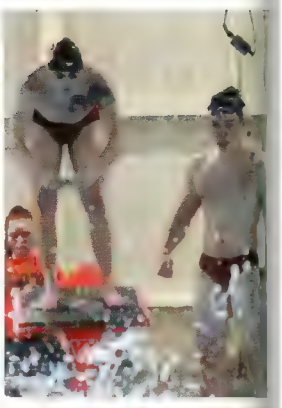
"Being a part of the swim team is truly special, not only because of the unique challenges I have faced and persevered through, but because of the friends and memories I have made along the way."

Jude Rowell, 12

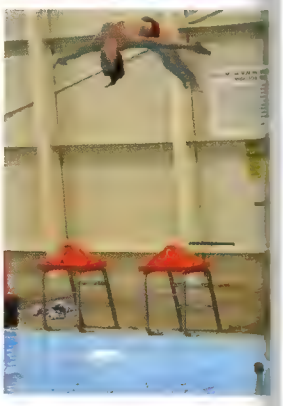


"Being a part of the swim team has meant always having a group of people I can rely on."

Lucas Rettig, 12



Diving into Action

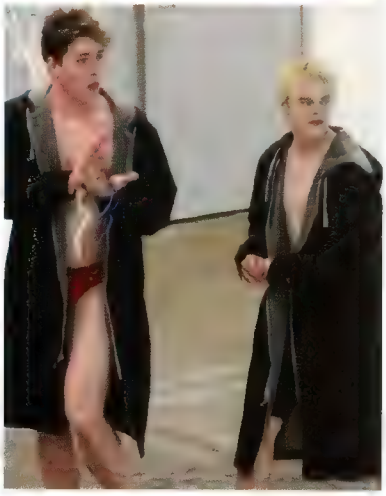


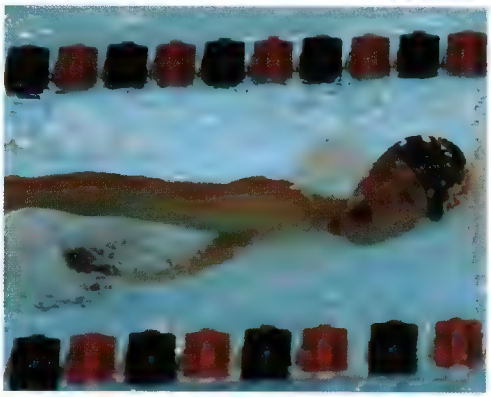
Despite not having a home pool to compete in this season, the Rocky Boys Swimming and Diving Team worked their hardest to represent the Rock in the water.

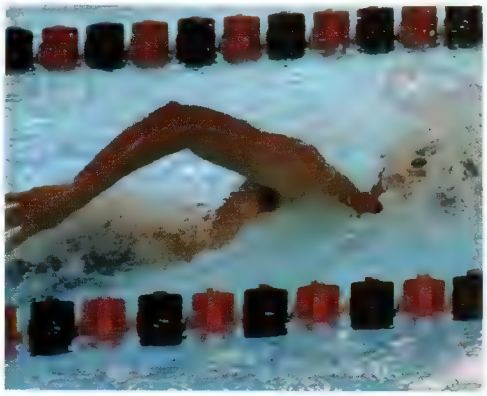
Led by Lucas Rettig, Max Zahner, and Jude Rowell, the Rocks had the goal "to just get faster and perform well in invite type meets," Head Coach David Busch explained. Busch stated, "I think we have accomplished that, as most of our best times have come from invite type meets."

The Rocks went 1-6 this year, but had a solid showing from newcomer, Andrew Oliver, in the diving events, as well as Lucas Rettig, who was named the WB6 Conference Swimmer of the Year, for the second year in a row.

The team faced challenges with not having a home pool, as well as having low numbers, but continued to work hard throughout the season. Coach Busch said, "The kids who have stayed have worked hard in practice, despite the circumstances, and have swam really well this season."







one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"A moment from this year's season that I will remember is telling fun stories on the bus on the way home from a competition!"
- Julian Anderson

RETURNING GAMERS

"I love that eSports connects students who have similar interests, that never would have met without eSports."
Benjamin Oliver, Grade 12

"We're way more competitive than you think."
Evan Lyon, Grade 12

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"My favorite moment is watching my five League of Legends players play together in the eSports room."
- Mrs. Vroman

ESPORTS @THE ROCK

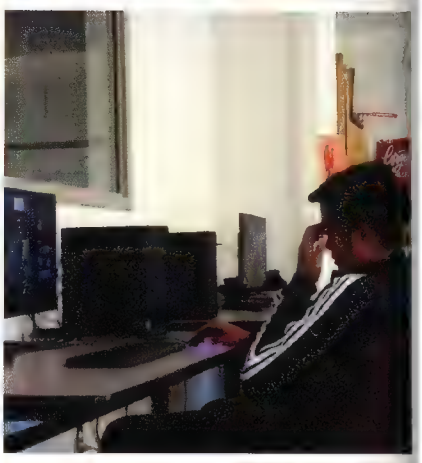
eSports is a newer club that offers competitive and non-competitive gaming for students at Rock Island High School.

eSports is a fairly new club, formed in 2020, and still going strong in 2022. They participate in a combination of competitive and non-competitive gaming. Some of the games played this season include Valorant, League of Legends, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, and Mario Kart 8.

Mrs. Vroman leads the team, and is excited to see the program continue to grow. Some of the top players are Almir Matias in Valorant, Lucas Rettig in League of Legends, Aidan Fiers in Mario Kart 8, and Kade McKillip in Super Smash Bros. Vroman states, "I have a strong League of Legends team. They have been playing on a team together for the last 3 years."

Vroman has high hopes for her team, as she explains she wants her athletes to "finish top 20 in League of Legends in the IHSEA (Illinois High School Esports Association) League."

Regardless of how the team finishes the season, Vroman hopes the program continues to expand with more athletes. The group meets every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the school year.



CAPTAINS

2022

one MOMENT you'll remember

"The team trip to Whitey's after winning a tournament."
- Riley Hawotte

GET YOUR KICKS

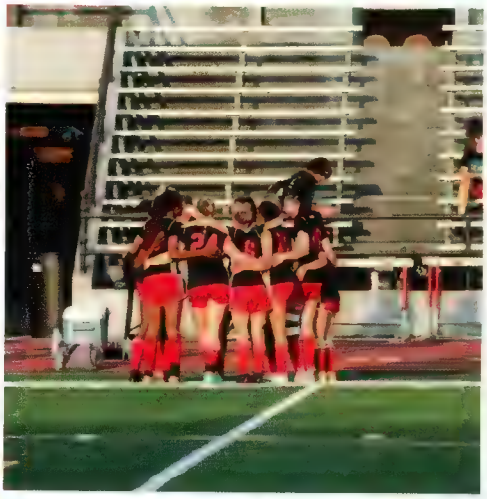
The driven and hard-working Girls' Soccer Team finishes their season with 12 winning games!

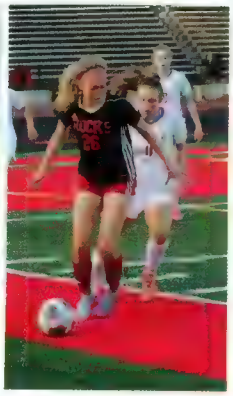
With Coach Mike Mertel, and a team filled with seniors, this season would be one to remember. Between competing in dodgeball games to being able to attend a Chicago Red Stars professional women's soccer game, this season proved to be the best yet. The team's goal was to make the most of the off-season. Mertel said, "We definitely met this goal. Working hard in the fall and spring with school trainer Kyle in the fitness center helped build strength and reduce injuries."

As much hard work as they put in, they also were having fun. Denise Carr's favorite team moments were "having team dinners, and getting to know the team better, and building their bond on and off the field."

As much as the team had a memorable year this season, 2023 will be much different without their group of seniors and without Coach Mertel's leadership. The seniors led the team into victories, and held the team's visions for the season. Denise Carr said, "I grew up playing soccer with most of the seniors, so it will be sad to have them not be there next season, but I did enjoy playing one last prank on the seniors!" This season was one to remember, with a team that felt like family, and who truly represented Rocky.

The team finished strong, with the record of 12-8-3, and with the Conference record of 3-3-1.





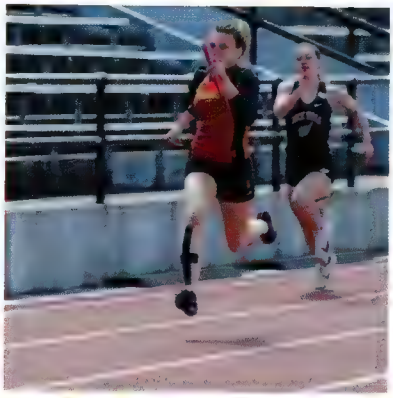
NEW POLE IN ROCKTOWN

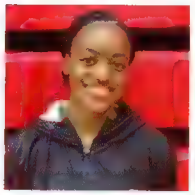
Welcome, Edward Sierra-Lee, coaching with passion.

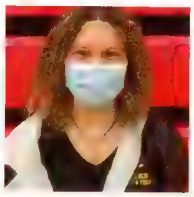
Coach Eddie's experience with pole vault started in high school, and in that time, he competed for his school, clubs, and USATF. He went on to vault in college for two years, and became an NAIA National Competitor. He faced many challenges, from not having a coach, to dealing with multiple leg injuries.

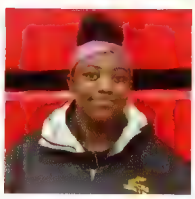
A previous pole vault coach at Rock Island, who helped him out in high school, called him about the position, and told him to apply. He agreed to, with the passion to give back to a program that helped him so much. For his first season coaching, he says, "What really went well was the passion and understanding that my athletes and fellow coaches gave me."

Next season, he has plans to implement new drills and techniques, but will keep mostly everything else the same.









TRACK & FIELD WORKING ON THE WHY

A Look into Girls Track and Field at the Rock

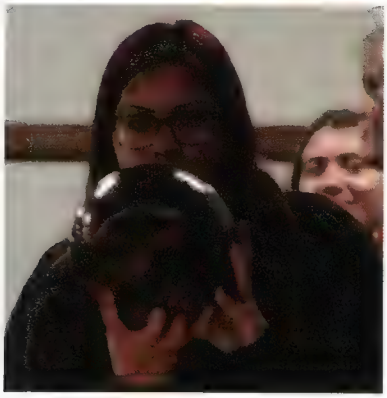
The Lady Rocks Track Team worked last season to bounce back after an adjusted COVID season. Head Coach Nelson said the team goals were to "hit personal bests at every meet for all events." Seeing improvement with each competition is just reinforcement of their training, and is getting the Rocks that much closer to qualifying for State. "Working so hard for so long can become draining, and it's important to remember why you're doing it, and to keep the passion for it," Nelson explained.

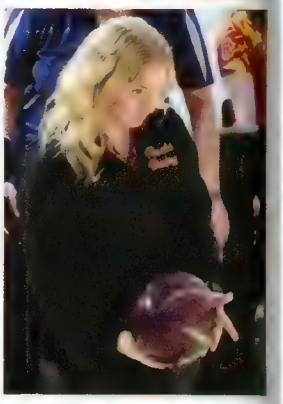
The team's biggest accomplishment was taking 1st place at the Macomb Senior High School Invitational. It was the first win since COVID. Nelson says, "Small achievements from day to day will become big wins in the future."

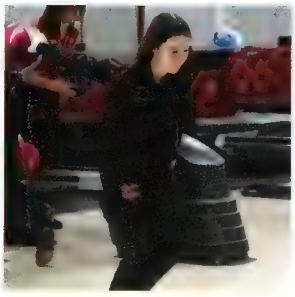
The Lady Rocks hope to build on last season's personal improvements to have team success in 2023.

one **MOMENT** you're looking forward to

"I'm looking forward to seeing how well me and my other teammates do this year in pole vault."
- Ave Dietz, 12

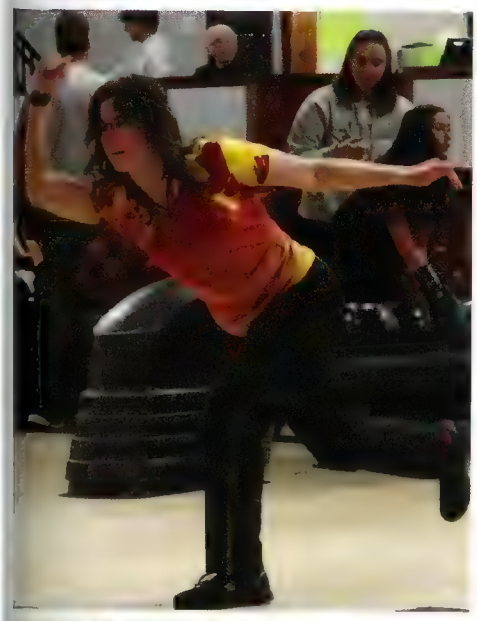


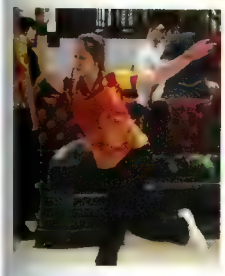


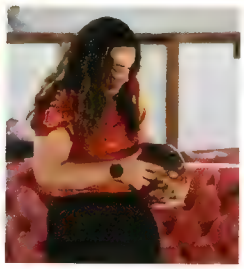


Getting Things Rolling!
Starting the season off, the Rock Island Girls Bowling Team had their first invite. "Invites are one of the best parts about the bowling season," Chloe Harmon stated. "There's so many types of cheers, and we are allowed to be as loud as we want. During invites, the energy level is so high. Everyone is just having such a great time, and that's what makes it so special."

The season started off strong, with Varsity undefeated, and the girls ended the season with an 11-1 record in dual meets, and one invitational championship.







Rock Island Girls Bowling

Coming off of a Conference win, and going to State last bowling season, the Girls Bowling Team worked to keep things rolling.

As the 2022-2023 Girls Bowling season started, the team was smaller than normal, with just enough to make a Varsity and Junior Varsity Team, but the girls were excited to continue their legacy.

The girls were filled with excitement, as this bowling season was packed, from invites to dual meets. The girls were eager to take on their competitors.

The Girls Bowling Team faced competition in invites almost every Saturday, and dual meets at least once a week. As the season rolled to an end, the girls' record was 11-1 in dual meets, and they won first place in United Township's Invite this year, along with winning 3rd place in the Geneseo High School Invite.

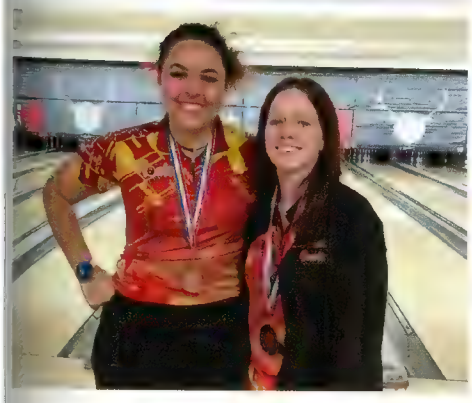
Rock Island Girls Bowling

Meets

Rock Island Invite (H)
Galesburg High School (H)
Palatine High School (A)
Geneseo High School (H)
United Township Invite (A)
Moline High School (H)
Sterling High School (H)
Dixon High School (A)
Geneseo High School Invite (A)
Oswego High School (A)
Prospect High School (A)
United Township High School (A)
Galesburg High School (A)
Moline High School Invite (A)
Geneseo High School (A)
Guilford High School (A)
United Township (H)
Moline Western Big 6 (A)

Team Roster and Averages

Bailey Hecker, Sr.	16
Makenzie Terry, Sr.	15
Alysa Braud, Sr.	14
Connie Gutierrez, Sr.	10
Maliyah Brose, Sr.	12
Bailey Sholl, Jr.	15
Chloe Harmon, So.	15
Remi Engeland, So.	13
Ryleigh Terry, So.	16
Delaney Dempsey, Fr.	9



"Hopefully, this bowling season, we can pick up where we left off. I'm looking forward to getting back into the swing of things, and getting to practice with the team."
Bailey Hecker, Sr.

"I am looking forward to having a stronger bond with the newcomers, and previous girls, and I am excited to be a team captain with Bailey and Mahiela."
Makenzie Terry, Sr.

"I am looking to have a good new and last bowling season, with the new people who are joining, and the previous ones. I am excited about being a captain this year, and the fun we will have through the season!"
Mahiela Hewitt, Sr.

Getting Involved in the MOMENT

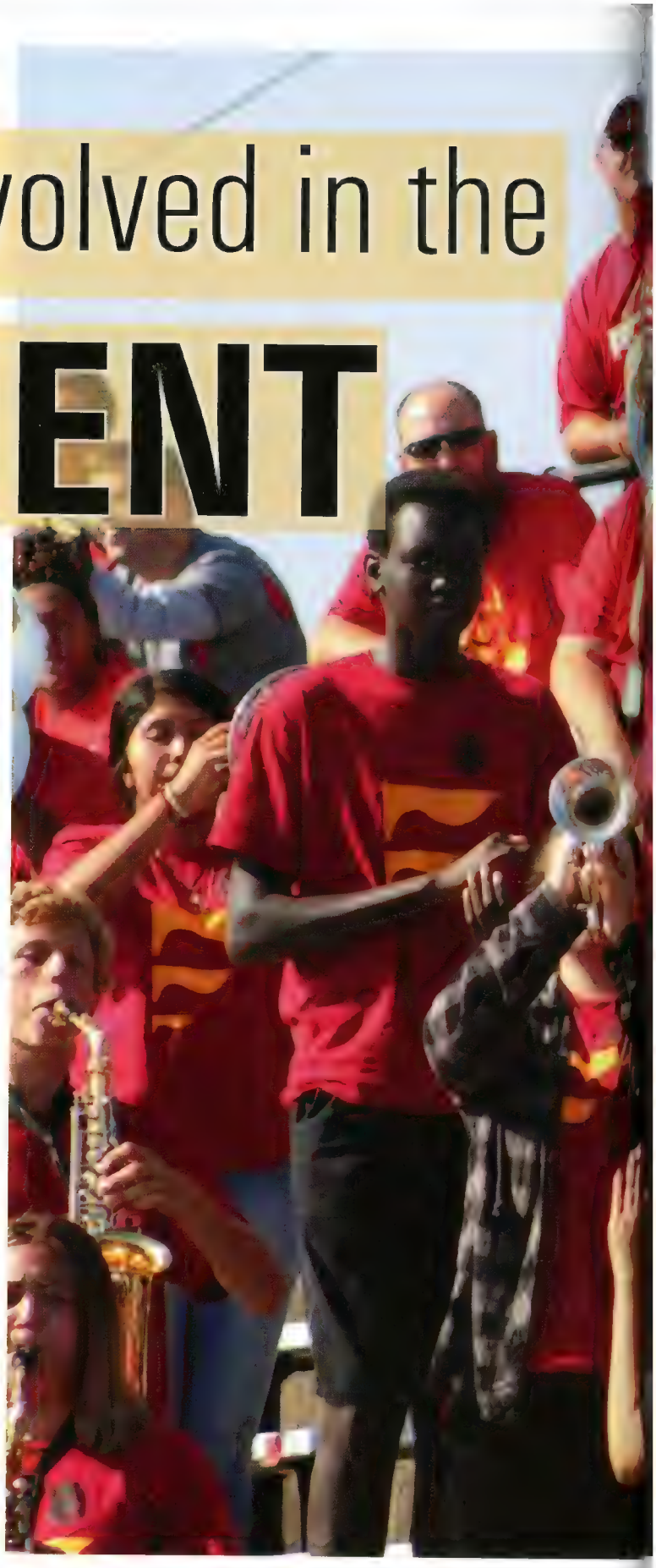
At Rocky, there is a place and an activity for everyone. Anyone can find their passion, and what they love to do - whether it's music, theater, art, academics, or being a part of something for a good cause.

This year, is the first year where school is fully back to normal after COVID. The band, orchestra, and choir can have concerts. There will be plays and musicals in the auditorium, and organizations can go out, and be a part of our community once again.

You can ask anyone at Rocky, and they would say being a part of something here is so important, and makes Rocky what it is.

We tell all the incoming freshmen that they should try as many different activities as they can, and find their passion, and make their own mark in this school's history. They will enjoy their time here more when they join something, and make their close group of friends, and make many memories.

So many students can find their place here. They find their passions. They find what they love. They find a new home.



EDITORS EDITORS EDITORS

"It feels really great to be trusted with a responsibility like this. I really like making student life pages. It's been fun to have my very own page with a partner. We've had a lot of fun working on the fashion trends page. Discussing decisions about the yearbook has been cool, as well."
- Lauren Groene

"It feels great! It's very rewarding knowing that your teacher trusts your academic skills to edit pages of something that captures the students' favorite memories of the school year, and will be created in a book that most keep for a lifetime."
- Mari Churchill

"I am honored by the opportunity, and it's cool because it means th I've shown a positive impact on t yearbook team. I really like lookin through the different pages, and seeing the first look throughout th whole yearbook. It's cool to see everything that's being done."
- Kenzie Meirhaeghe

Welcome, SOPHOMORES

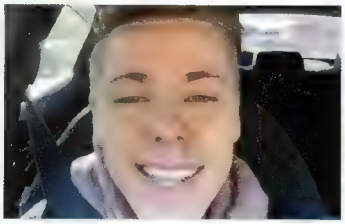
"I remember the day when Ms. Miers came into my ELA class, and announced that sophomores could work on the yearbook this year. I was really excited. I knew right away that I was going to join the class. I've always been in love with creating stuff, so I felt that Journalism was going to be for me, and it is. I definitely recommend it for students who have a creative side. It was rough the first couple of weeks, but as time went on, everything started moving smoothly for me. Journalism is a great class. I feel honored to be in it, and to be able to work on the yearbook."
- Eh Eh Poe

"I feel like it's a great opportunity for underclassmen to get to work on the yearbook and with a different variety of grade levels. I would recommend it. Working with the upperclassmen really brings us together, as a team."
- Aundrea Doss

We Are Journalism!

Journalism is a class open for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The class works on the school's yearbook, online newspaper, and mini documentaries. If you like to be creative and design projects from a student's perspective, Journalism could be the perfect class for you. "I love having the opportunity to see students be creative, and tell Rocky's stories each year. Seeing students become leaders and use their voices/ talents is so cool to see," says Ms. Miers, the Journalism teacher.

Every year, students in Journalism take on the yearbook, and every year, the yearbook is filled with special memories and moments from Rocky. Journalism is a great place to create new friendships, especially with people who have the same interests as you. Miers states, "I hope they have fun, and learn how to take pride in the school a bit more." Journalism is a great place to show the positive side of Rock Island High School. The student journalists show the amazing groups and clubs Rocky has, and they show and share stories of the diverse group of students at the Rock. Like Rocky, Journalism welcomes all. The class always welcomes any student who has a story they want to share.

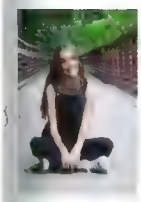


"I took Journalism for the second time because of the opportunities it gave me to go to certain events, and showcase different students' talents and unique abilities. Not only that, but I also love taking pictures, and something new this year, creating videos for the yearbook. It allows me to use my creative ideas in different ways, and be recognized for them! My favorite aspect of this class is, like previously stated, taking pictures and videos for the yearbook and the school's media pages. It is something I really enjoy, and hope to continue after high school."
- Aidan Henderson

"I took Journalism for a second year because I enjoy getting to help design the yearbook, and cover different perspectives on topics throughout the year. My favorite aspect is the page layout. I like getting creative and trying new things to make the page fun."
- Kaiya McKinley

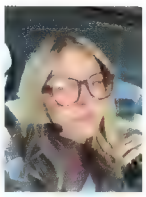
Welcome Back, Seniors!

Rocky's Journalism class had two returning seniors, both of whom graduated early to pursue their post high school goals!

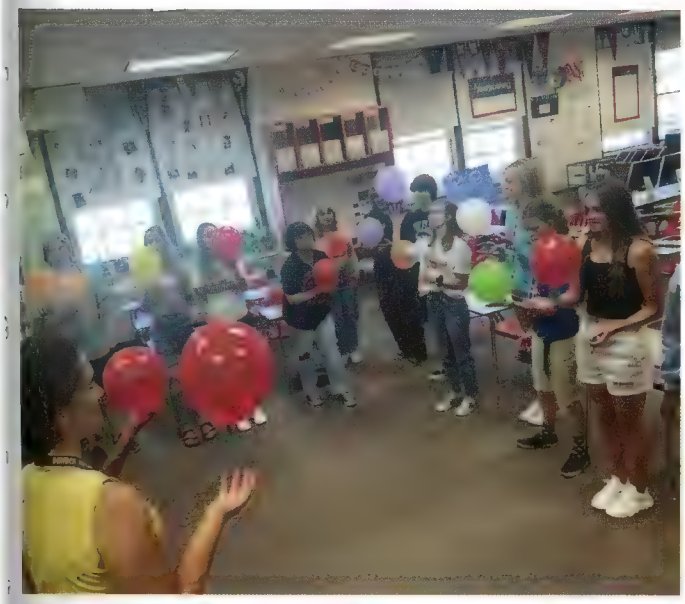


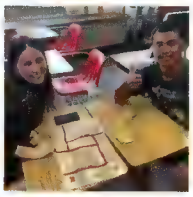
"I feel very involved with the creation of the yearbook. I am very excited to be named editor. I like graphic designs/ creations. They are a hobby of mine, along with organizing."
- Lauren Gant

"I love getting to work on the yearbook and working for the media side of it, and so, being named editor was something I was hoping for. The thing about being an editor that I like the most is getting to overlook the other pages in the book, and making sure it looks the best we can make it look."
- Nate Gottcent



"I was definitely surprised, at first, to be asked, but it is a very rewarding feeling knowing that Ms. Miers trusts me and my work enough to help out with decis ons pertaining to the book. I enjoy a lot of the freedom and creativity you get when it comes to the design of the pages, along with a mindset of knowing your ideas mean something to the book."
- Alexis Engels





What is ONE tool you'll use in your life?

"One thing from Journalism that I use in my daily life is all of the photography styles. I hope to become a photographer in the future, so I practice all the time. Everywhere I go, I take photos."
- LaDerricka Nephew

Welcome to
JOURNALISM

"Being the first sophomores allowed in Journalism is an honor. As challenging as the class is, I would definitely recommend it to future students. The yearbook, to me, is a love letter to Rock Island High School, written by the students, and sewn together by Journalism."
- Elizabeth McCoy

"I like it. It's pretty fun going through pictures, and seeing how detailed they are. I think it's a nice awakening, and I wouldn't say it's difficult, just a little challenging."
- Shaylea Childress

DOING SERVICE

The Riveters went shopping at Target for Giving Tree donations.

The Riveters organized an event at Cool Beanz to donate pads and tampons to Rocky and the junior highs.

one **project** you'll remember

"The Get Caffeinated Period. project. It was fun to create posters for it."
- Christen Egan

Doing charity and inspiring people is the Rocky Riveters' goal!

The Rocky Riveters is a female empowerment and service club. It has been going strong since 2016. The club is led by Ms. Miers and Ms. Churchill.

"We started the Riveters right after the 2016 election," said Ms. Miers, "but I believe we were board approved in 2017."

The group has done various projects in the past. The two most recent ones were the Get Caffeinated Period. Drive and going to Target to buy gifts for the Giving Tree.

"My favorite project of all time was the very first project the Riveters did, which was a book drive, where we collected and donated children's books, with strong female characters, to our elementary libraries," Ms. Miers said.

They also invite speakers to come and talk at meetings. One speaker this year was a mental health specialist, who spoke in collaboration with the Gray Matters Collective. "I think it's an important matter to keep in mind," said Ms. Miers.

The Riveters is a great group that encourages leadership skills and helping out the community. You should join next school year!

"I'll remember going to Burger King after every single tournament, definitely. It's so fun!"
- Haleigh Laud

one MOMENT you'll remember

"Hearing my teammates clapping for me after I win!"
- Khadija Sakho

SPEAKING FOR THE ROCK

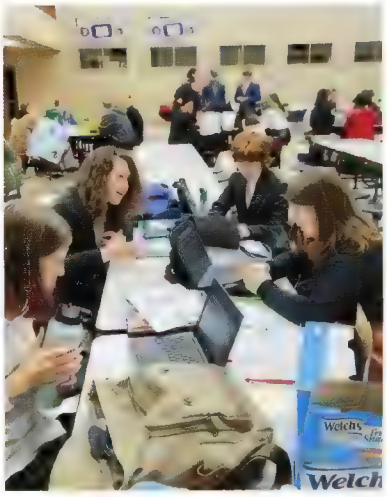
Under the leadership of Coach Jeff Duster, Rock Island High School's Speech and Debate Team had an active season, with many talented newcomers. The Speech Team consists of three students- Angelina Nocentelli, Khadija Sakho, and Grace Hodonou. This year, their Dramatic Duet Acting Team of Khadija Sakho and Angelina Nocentelli finished in the top six in every tournament, bringing home 1st Place at the Bettendorf Invitational and 2nd Place Honors at the highly competitive Romeoville Tournament.

On the Debate Team, four freshmen, Haleigh Laud, Harper Chapman, Millie Gidaszewski, and Olivia Seidlitz made an impact in their competitions. The team has had a combined record of 18-12, going up against powerhouse programs in the state, all season long.

Duster explains, "The purpose of the Speech Team is to develop communication skills. Speech, in particular, focuses on dramatic elements of speaking, which leads to more confident individuals. Debate is primarily designed to promote confidence in speaking, along with the ability to conduct and assemble research, understand both sides of an argument, and logically and empirically attack a claim made by our opposition."

The team practices four days a week, for about one and a half hours. Each team has their own ways of preparing. For Speech, they prepare a routine, and are constantly rehearsing, and making changes to their routine until it is perfected. Meanwhile, the Debate Team keeps busy learning new topics, gathering evidence, writing cases, and running mock rounds, Duster explained.

Ultimately, Duster hopes the group learns more than just the skills necessary to do well in competitions. "The biggest thing that I would like for our competitors to learn is that you can never be satisfied," Duster says. "There is always room for improvement, and you need to work hard every day in order to improve your goals, both as a competitor and in life."



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

National Honor Society is an organization that recognizes students who have a kept a 3.5 or higher GPA within the sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

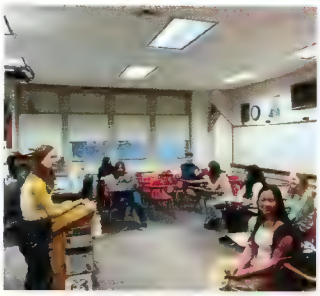
It takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and time for a student to keep up that standard. NHS students must also uphold the work of the four pillars that make National Honor Society: Service, Character, Scholarship, and Citizenship.

Members of NHS also lend a helpful hand by volunteering at different events to help the community. Students in the group must complete 10 community service hours within the year to maintain their membership in the organization.

Every year, students participate in the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, which occurs in the spring. This ceremony recognizes the hard work and accomplishments that the students have made throughout the year(s).

one **Lesson** you'll remember

"A lesson I've learned is making sure I really stay on top of my grades, and putting in effort to get the grades that I want."
- Kaiya McKinley, 12



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OFFICERS 2022-23

"Being an NHS officer has pushed me to work even harder to set a good example for everyone in the school, and it's reassuring that my classmates feel the same way."
Ella Hansen, 12

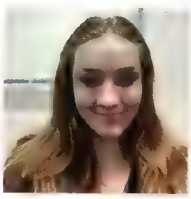
"Being an NHS officer has shown me the amazing potential and generosity of many of our students. It has shown me an awareness of others' needs."
Natalie Pothoven, 12

"Being an NHS officer means that you get to be a leader, and take on an important responsibility. It's a big honor to be part of a group like this, but to help lead it is an even bigger one."
Keller Mathews, 12

"I like getting to know new people and, hopefully, making small changes around me and in the community."
- Madelyn Maidak, 12

"Getting out there and actively bettering the community by aiding in cleanups and environmental projects gives a sense of accomplishment that could not be found anywhere else."
- Alivia Stanley, 11

"I love the fact that everyone in the club is already close, and if you don't know anyone, it is inclusive and welcoming. No one is left out, and all are welcomed."
- Ntiruvakure Dinye, 11



"My favorite part of EAC is spending time with my friends, and helping the environment."
- Emma Stout, 12

"I like the field trips we take. We learn a lot about nature from them. Whenever we volunteer, it makes me feel good because we're helping out the environment."
- Ywa Htoo, 10

EAC's Nature

"Being in the Environmental Action Club has given me a newfound love for nature."
- Eh Eh Poe, 10

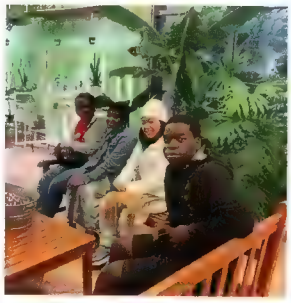
Our Moments With EAC

"The Environmental Action Club is all about helping the environment, volunteering to aid the community, and to help the environment," according to the officers in EAC.

The Enviromental Action Club (EAC) is all about promoting pro-environmental action, along with "continually providing opportunities for helping the environment in our local community, and to be a resource for peers at RIHS and the community about environmental issues," Mr. Dunker said.

EAC is good for volunteering in the community for environmental issues. This club teaches students about helping the environment around them. "In different years, we have made videos on how to be environmentally friendly in your home/ community," Mr. Dunker stated. The major events for EAC have been Bald Eagle Days and the Outdoor Show. But all the students definitely favor the Wetlands field trip in East Moline. Mr. Dunker specifically said that this was their "favorite, so far this year."

The EAC has great leaders, as well. President: Madelyn Maidak, VP: Ntiruvakure Dinye, Secretary: Alivia Stanley, Treasurer: Lah Paw, Social Media: Emma Stout, At Large: Olivia Seidlitz, Website Designer: Kennedy Maombi.



SINGING WITH THE STARS

Everyone in Choir has a story to tell. A story that needs to be shared. A story that will be told with their voices.

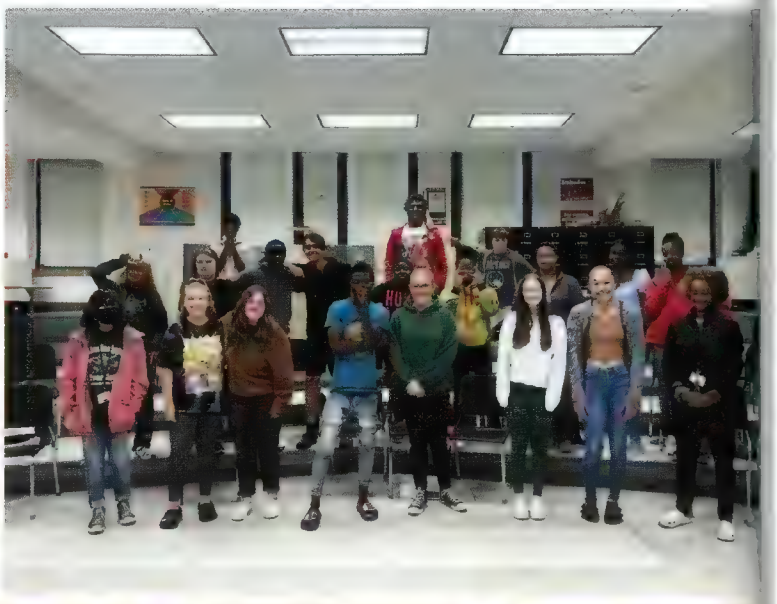
Choir is a place where students can share their voices with other students, who love singing just like them.

Rock Island High School's Choir consists of three groups- Chamber Singers, Symphonic Choir, and Concert Choir.

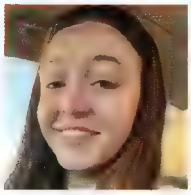
Concert Choir consists of mostly freshmen, with a sprinkle of upperclassmen in their first year of Choir, or those who have previously been in Concert Choir, and have decided to stay in it. The next group of singers is Symphonic Choir. Symphonic Choir has students who have Choir experience. They are able to perform music at a higher level. The final Choir group is Chamber Singers, an auditioned group, who performs all around the Quad Cities. Chamber members have Choir experience, and can perform at the highest level.

The Choirs have a concert every quarter- the Fall Concert, the Winter Concert, the Spring Concert, and the Pops Concert (the most beloved concert to the students). The Pops Concert is bit different compared to the other concerts. Not only do students learn how to sing, but also dance. Last year's concert was Disney themed, which the students enjoyed.

Concert Choir



SINGING SENIOR



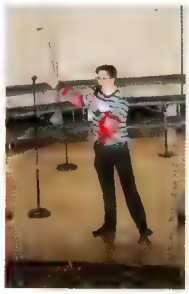
McKenzie Houston has been in Choir all four of her years at Rock Island High School. She'll miss the funny conversations she has with Mr. Voigt, and getting ready for concerts. Houston's senior year has been great, but high school has gone by really fast for her. She states, "My experience in Choir has been great. I've met a lot of new friends and made great bonds."

OUR Favorite Tune

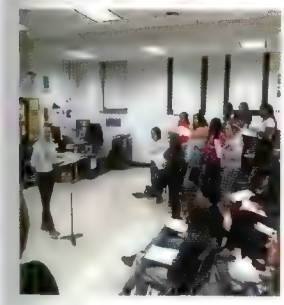
"I loved 'Love Is An Open Door.' It was fun learning the dance to it. We got a good laugh out of it. Disney songs just hit different."

"I like 'Bashana Haba'ah' by EHUD MANOR. I like the meaning of the song. The meaning being that next year will be better."
Travonna Ferguson, 10

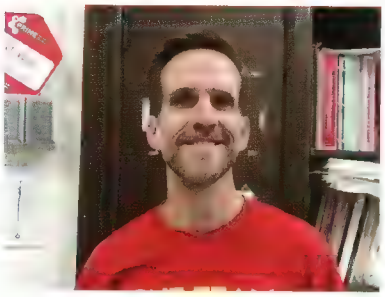
"'Clear Water.' I like it because I feel like it sounds really nice with all the Altos and Sopranos singing together."



Symphonic Choir

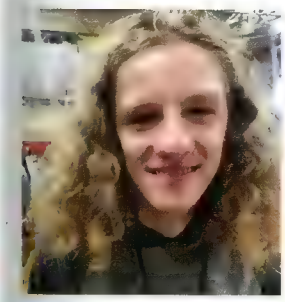


MEET THE CONDUCTORS



Scott Voigt is the Choir Director of Rock Island High School, and has been teaching Choir for 24 years. Voigt was in Choir himself during his school years, and loves to share his passion with students. "Music has provided me with many wonderful memories and life experiences, and is a source of joy and fulfillment."
- Scott Voigt

This is Cheryl Bolt's 20th year of teaching Choir at Rock Island High School. Back in school, Bolt was also a Choir student. She loved singing as an Alto. Teaching music to her means everything. She is able to teach something she's passionate about. "I had some great teachers through the years, and I believed that I could teach what I know so that others could also be successful in their own musical endeavors."
- Cheryl Bolt



"I would say 'Exsultate' has been my favorite song. It's very energetic, and fun to sing, and it's not too complicated for me."
Daniel Hauskins, 10

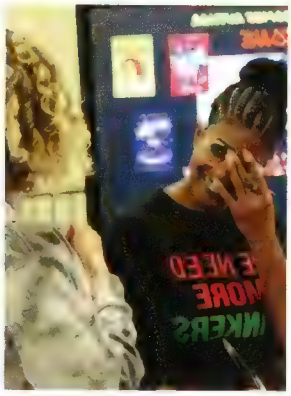
"My favorite song in Choir, so far, is 'Nothing Can Stop Me.' It's an easy song to sing. It's also a really good song. And, when you sing it, it gives you confidence, especially when you get to the chorus."

"I choose 'Esto Les Digo' because I love the melody and the Alto part, and I also like how it's in my language."
Noemi Figueroa-Salinas, 10

ROCKY BOOKS STONE

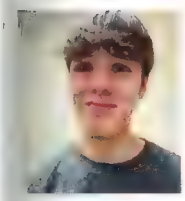
Rock Island High School had the incredible honor of hosting New York Times Best Selling author, Nic Stone. She engaged with the student body during a Q & A session, granted individual students pieces of wisdom, and left personalized notes in freshly signed books. Stone's warm and outgoing personality left an undeniable impression on Rocky staff and students alike. Kylie Melchi, a 10th grader in attendance, said the event was, "Something every YA reader in high school should experience."

Rocky's audience for the presentation included around 450 students, and the rest of the student body watched via a live feed. The students who waited to meet her were a great reflection of the young leaders who walk the halls of Rock Island High School every day. Hopefully, they came away inspired to continue reading, and as Nic Stone writes, "Make their own luck."



A PEP IN ROCKY'S STEP

ROCKY BAND STUDENTS AND THEIR DIRECTOR SHOW THEIR SCHOOL SPIRIT BY GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AT BASKETBALL GAMES, ONCE THEIR MARCHING SEASON ENDS.



"I like hanging out with my friends, and getting to watch the game, too."
- Cody Wolf

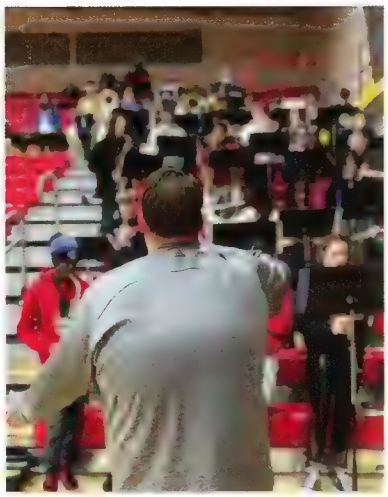
"A memory I will never forget was the song 'Firework'. The song fell apart, and we all were laughing."
- Asia Stern

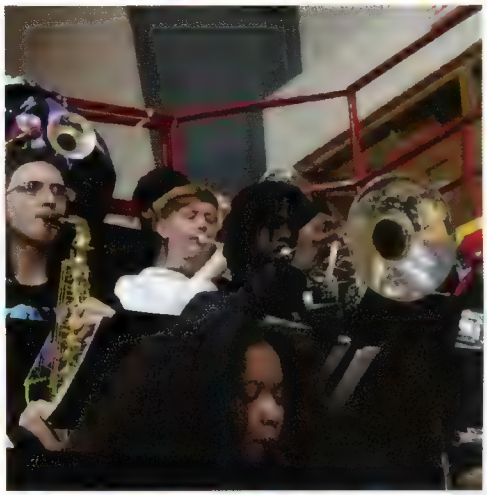
"I love playing cool tunes, and watching the game."
- Harrison Braddy

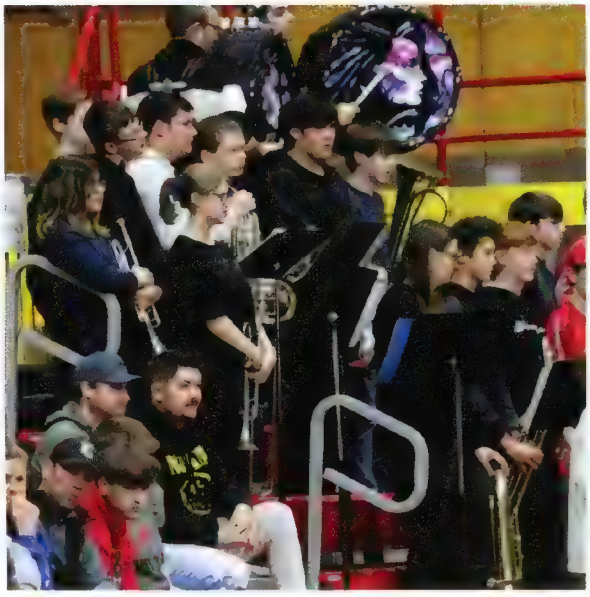
"It's a good experience, and I get to spend time with my friends."
- Kiefer Chandler

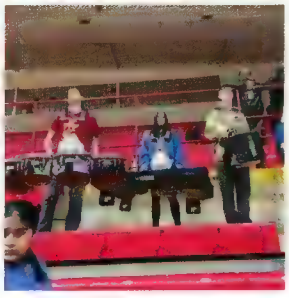
"I love getting to play all the fun songs, my favorite being 'Firework' by Katy Perry."
- Abbi Parr

"I like halftime because I get to watch the game, and hang out with friends."
- Lulu Feigley









"Orchestra has been an amazing experience for me. Being in Chamber all of high school has been a challenge, but worth it. You have to challenge yourself to get better."
- Stella Houk, Violinist

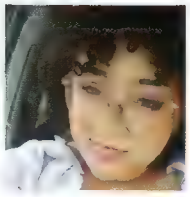
"I would recommend joining Orchestra, or follow anything you have interest in. You'll never know what new things you will find."
- Merrell Mars, Violist

"The best moment in Orchestra is after a concert, when we are all proud of ourselves, and the work we've all done just gets put together."
- NJ Nocentelli, Violist

GRADUATING SENIORS

"This class was the realest experience that I've had in my adolescence."
- Jasper Raymond

"I've learned more about myself, actually. Music is something that has to really be a part of you."
- Madi Maxey

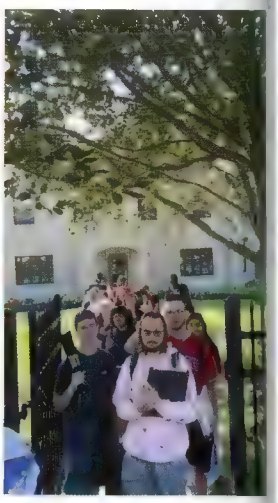


"Playing an instrument is difficult. Learning a new skill takes time, and always has a learning curve."
- Riley Jones

Welcome to Rocky Orchestra!

"A pleasant surprise that I've encountered is that there are some really great students that take great pride and ownership in our Orchestra program, and consistently go above and beyond to help out. Some of the students here have really exceeded my expectations, in this regard."

- Mrs. Emamjomeh, on her experiences as Rocky's new Orchestra teacher.



"I took CNA because I want to work in the medical field when I get older. I will be using the experience I will learn to help me in a career in nursing."

- Quinci Bumgarner, 12

"I chose CNA because I've worked in a nursing home. I wanted to be with the residents and patients more. And, with CNA, I want to be a pediatrician or a nurse in pediatrics. I wanted my CNA license to open more doors for job opportunities."

- Erriea Bea, 12

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"Brushing someone's teeth! It was a pretty different experience, and something I'll probably won't forget."

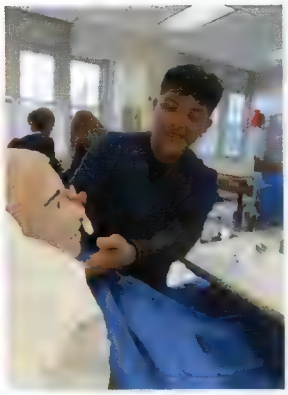
- Dah Gay Htoo

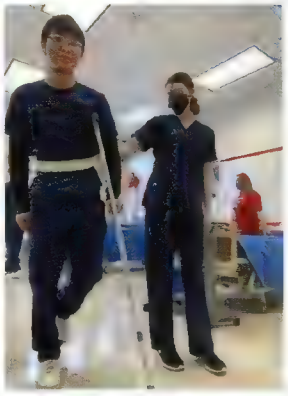
Nursing Our Way to Success

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program is where students at Rock Island High School get to learn about, and experience the medical field. With a new teacher, Mrs. Lanning, teaching CNA for the first time, she is looking forward to teaching "diversity and human needs and development," Lanning explained.

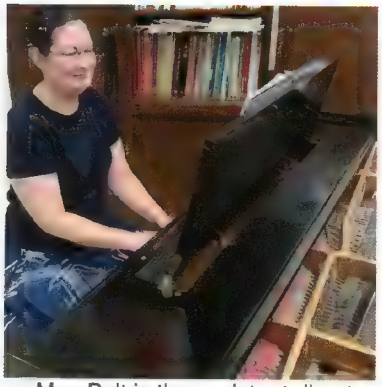
The CNA course she teaches is designed to prepare the individual to work in the role of a certified nurse assistant in a variety of heath care settings. Mrs. Lanning said, "Patience is an important skill for CNAs to have because they are responsible for providing constant comfort and care, and by remaining patient and calm in a possibly challenging situation."

In the CNA Program, students learn about the medical field, and do hands on activities, but Mrs. Lanning says, "Classroom discussions are a greater opportunity for students to ask questions and practice case scenarios." CNA students also go through clinical rotations, where CNA students go, and get hands on experience with patients, and that allows them to learn what it is like to work along side a nurse assistant in a health care setting.





THE FACE BEHIND THE PIANO



Mrs. Bolt is the assistant directer and accompanist for all of the junior high and high school choirs. Throughout the school year, students in Chamber will spend plenty of time with her when rehearsing, learning, and performing. Bolt says her favorite part of the Chamber Singers is "Everything!"

Bolt has two favorite parts of the school year. She says, "I like the Pops Concert because everyone has so much fun, but I also really, really enjoy the Christmas season because Chamber learns about what it's like to be performing musicians."

Mrs. Bolt says calendars are key for organizing her schedule. "I never, ever leave home without my calendar. When you see me walking in and out of the school, my calendar is in hand. Bolt understands a busy schedule all too well. For students who are struggling to stay organized, she says, "Don't quit." She follows by saying that there are times where the work load that Mr. Voigt and she share seems insurmountable, but staying organized and understanding that you will get it done will help you make it.

Bolt says that, "Anybody can be a leader," and the main way she sees leadership displayed is members making sure that they know their music, and having a willingness to help other students.

"I wanted to join Chamber because I really have a passion for singing, and I really like pushing myself to learn new things, like the songs, and pushing my voice to be better and better every day. So far, I've really enjoyed practicing our song in different languages because it is something new to learn and understand."
- Isaac Perez, Freshman

"I joined Chamber because of the first concert I saw here. It was inspiring, with all of the sounds, and I knew I wanted to do it. So far, I've really enjoyed the sound of all the blending in a lot of the songs we do. The feeling of being a part of that sound is everything. Joining was one of the best things. The effort you put in for each song is so worth it in the end."
- Layla Cambell, Freshman

Chamber Singers is Rocky's top performing choir. It is comprised of 18 hardworking students, including 5 altos, 5 sopranos, 4 tenors, 4 basses, and is directed by Mr. Voigt and Mrs. Bolt.

The Chamber Singers keep a busy schedule, especially during the holidays. First quarter is dedicated to ILMEA preparation. The second quarter is dedicated to a Holidays' themed performance season (the busiest of all). The focus of the third quarter is preparing for the QC Solo & Ensemble Contest and the IHSA Organizational Contest, and the fourth quarter is dedicated to the Pops Concert.

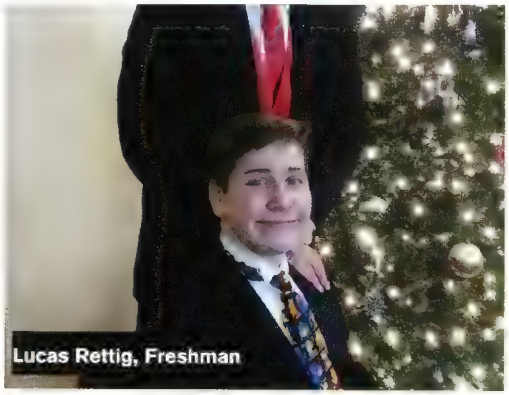
Throughout the entire school year, Chamber Singers learn valuable lessons about being a performing musician, representing the school, and they make many memories performing.

ONE HARMONY

Chamber Singers

THEN AND NOW

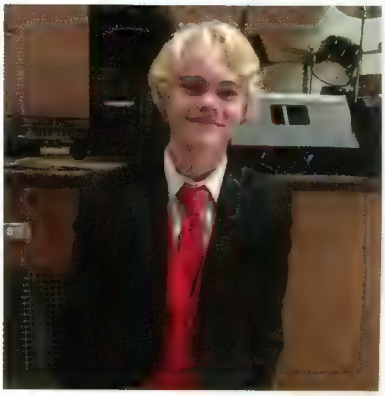
Many students join Chamber as upperclassmen, but Senior Lucas Rettig has performed with the Choir since his freshman year.



Lucas Rettig, Freshman

Lucas Rettig, Senior

A SENIOR'S WORDS OF WISDOM

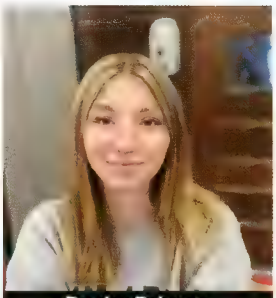


"Looking back through my years of high school, my favorite Chamber memories were of freshman year Chamber, and going around during Christmas season, and singing for everyone. Sophomore year, not much happened due to COVID, but I did get a few solos. Junior year, my favorite times were going to All State, and singing in a quartet. If you want to be in Chamber Choir, make sure you're ready to put in the work, and try to improve as much as you can."

- Julian Anderson

Elizabeth McCoy
"I like that I can come here and talk with people who like books just as much as me."

Carly LeMaster
"I love the community, and how everyone can get along here."



Presley Behrens
"I really like how hard everyone works to make everyone feel included."

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"I liked when we were reading *Ace of Spades*, and we could all agree on something, and how it contributed to the depth of the book."
- Zenniphyr Bullock

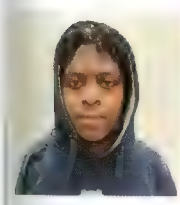
"My favorite thing about book club is that it's open to everyone- different ages, different interests- people from across the entire Rocky spectrum."
- Mrs. Mendelin

Turning a New Page

The Reading Rocks continue to flex their literary strength this year. With plenty of new members, and their bi-weekly lively discussions, Rocky's beloved book club continues to thrive.

"It's a club that isn't stressful, and it doesn't demand a lot," Mrs. Mendelin says. As one of the staff members in charge of the Reading Rocks book club, Mrs. Mendelin has gotten to see the club change over the years. As diverse as ever, the Reading Rocks have been growing, despite the construction on the library. Mrs. Mendelin says, "We are here with lots of different opinions and different lifestyles, and just however we are, but we have a common goal, and that's to have a discussion on what we just read."

The Reading Rocks are even lucky enough to experience an author visit this year. Nic Stone, author of books, such as *Dear Martin* and *Dear Justyce*, is paying a visit to Rocky this year. "We are very excited to have an author visit, from author, Nic Stone. The Reading Rocks are excited to meet her!" Mrs. Mendelin enthusiastically explains.



"One goal I have, this year, is to have good mentors come into the classroom, and tell us about their jobs to inspire other kids to be like them. I also want to help people become more engaged in the classroom."
Amyah Jackson

"One goal I have for this year is being able to help people grow through their challenges. I can't wait to see the growth through my peers."
Chloe Harmon

"One goal I have for this year is to make sure we can help the community out, while keeping a strong classroom bond."
Christian Pearson

"One goal I have is being able to share my ideas out in a positive space, along with being able to include everyone in our in class activities."
Daniel Rivera

"One goal I have, while being on the leadership team, is to improve my leadership skills, and develop a plan for after high school. I also want to help others as much as I can to be successful during and after high school."
Dreshawn Randolph

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"One moment I'll remember is freshman year, when our class had a food party. We had pizza, snacks, and drinks. I enjoyed how we all came together to celebrate."
- Chloe Harmon

iJAG

If someone takes a look inside the iJAG classrooms, they will see hard working, dedicated kids wanting to make an impact. Mrs. Monica Hughes, the 9-10 specialist, strives to teach kids "the importance of effective communication, and ensure students know that their goals are achievable," Hughes explains. Students at Rocky feel having Mrs. Hughes as a teacher is one of the best aspects of their schedules.

From sharing life experiences to going through their own life challenges, iJAG students work to help each other succeed and learn from each other. While teaching the class, Mrs. Hughes enjoys watching her students be themselves and accomplish every day challenges. One of the most rewarding aspects of iJAG, Mrs. Hughes says, is really getting to learn their personalities, one on one.

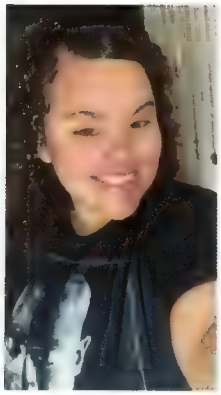
There are many fun activities iJAG students engage in. Some activities include going on field trips, like visiting John Deere, going to a military base, and even class community service projects. iJAG also has many people come in who've been through the hard battles in life, worked in hospitals, in a bank, on a military base, and even someone who owns a business. Mrs. Hughes' favorite guest speaker the owner of Toni's Smoking Grill. She says, "We did a Food Truck Project, where students learned how to run a successful business. Toni came in to discuss her food truck business, and brought us smoked chicken and macaroni."

Ultimately, Mrs. Hughes wants kids to know "iJAG is based on the needs of students, and every year is different. We support every student's goal after high school, and want to be their lifelong mentor and friend," she explains.

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

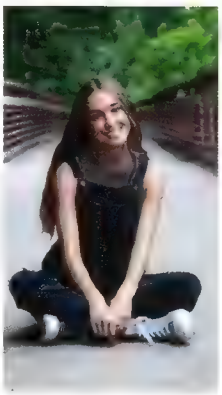
"My favorite moment from the Education Internship was going to Augie. I liked it because the campus was beautiful, and the staff truly cares about the students."
- LaDerricka Nephew

"I decided to join the program again because I wanted to explore. I wanted to try a placement at a different grade level."
- K'mwee Su



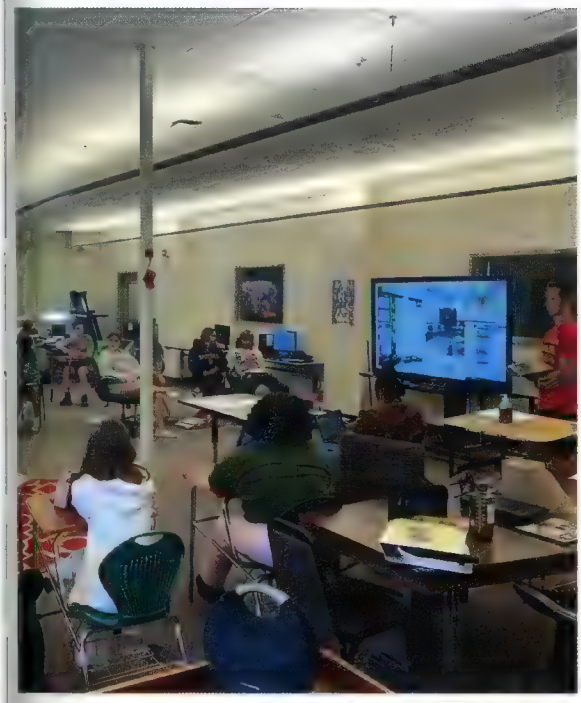
"I really didn't hear about the program because me and most of my peers didn't know it was a thing. Mr. Mertel had emailed me, and I was interested in it, so I went to the meeting. What made me want to join was the learning experience of being a teacher, and the different type of class I get to have than most students. My two periods that I join Ms. Gonzalez is not me learning, but me spreading my knowledge about Algebra 1, which is something I took two years ago, and I don't only use it in my Algebra 2 class, but I teach it, and I knew from the start that me being a help to the freshmen this year would be something I was going to like."
- Ma'Liyah Taylor

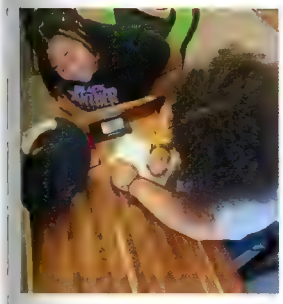
"My cousin was in the program. She told me that it was a great program, and made her more confident to become a teacher. As I was heading toward my junior year, I started planning what I really wanted to do in the future, and I looked through career classes, and saw Education Internship. I didn't mind working with other students or children, so I decided to give it a try, and so far, it has been really fun and interesting."
- Hae Peh Htoo

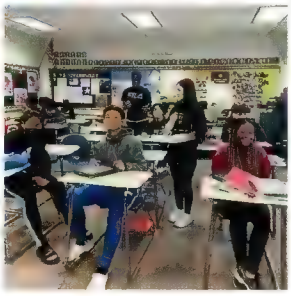


"I heard about the program during COVID. I logged onto my geometry live, and there was a senior, and she was introduced as the intern from the program, so I did further research. I've always had an interest in teaching, as my grandma, aunts and mom are all teachers."
- Lauren Grant

EDUCATION







During 2019, schools from all over had a teacher shortage. Rock Island High School's 9th grade World Studies teacher, Mike Mertel felt that if students were able to get a hands-on teaching experience, it would allow them to better decide if teaching is right for them, and will give them an advantage when pursuing their degree.

"I had the opportunity to participate in a similar program while I was in high school. This was such a beneficial and influential experience for me. I felt like I had a huge advantage when I entered college," Mertel explained.

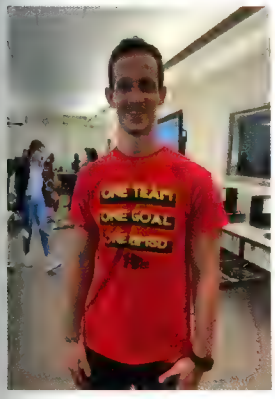
The Education Internship Program allows juniors and seniors, who are interested in pursuing education as a future career, into schools all over the district. Interns can choose what age group they'd like to work with, then stay in that classroom for the school year, all while earning high school credits.

This year, there are 37 interns, more than double the enrollment from last year. "The hardest part of the program is coordinating the schedules of interns with their placement classroom. This involves matching interns with their cooperating teachers, ensuring they have transportation to their site schools, and building the time into interns' schedules," Mertel notes.

Mertel is also a cooperating teacher. A cooperating teacher is responsible for guiding their intern through the teaching process, and showing them what teaching is all about.

During the first half of the school year, the interns observe and work with students in the classroom, and then they can begin to create lesson plans, and work with bigger groups for the second half of the school year.

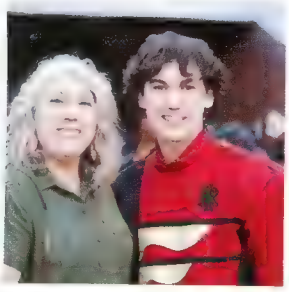
According to Mertel, several of the former interns from Rock Island High School have gone to college to become teachers. Mertel's advice to students thinking of becoming a teacher is, "DO IT! It is the most rewarding and impactful profession. If you are unsure, start by taking the internship, so you can get that hands-on experience to better gage if it is a good fit for you."



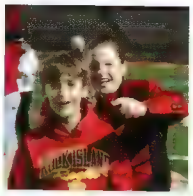
"I had the same opportunity to participate in a similar program while I was in high school. This was such a beneficial and influential experience for me. I felt like I had a huge advantage when I entered college. Additionally, we have such a diverse and unique student population. I want our staff to reflect that same diversity."
- Mike Mertel

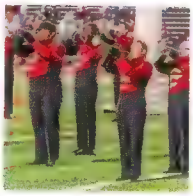
one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"As a senior in Marching Band, I'll always remember being surrounded by my friends, doing our senior chants at football games, and then, getting to perform our show on our home field!"
- Ella Hansen



"As a front line section leader, there are a lot more responsibilities, due to having to know what all the keys do, and knowing where everything goes on the field, and many more. I love Marching Band because of the people you meet, and where you get to go with all of your friends. My favorite memory is my final BOA trip to Indiana, as a senior, and getting to be in the Lucas Oil Stadium one last time."
- Carter Cupp

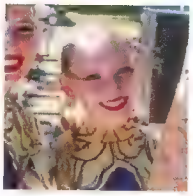




Follow the Leader

"My favorite part of the season was hanging out with all the small drums. Then, the best part of being a student leader was helping to teach and lead a successful section, and seeing them improve."
- Natalie Pothoven

"The best part of the season was being able to go back to BOA for my senior year, and the best part of being a section leader is getting closer with all the new freshmen, and creating a comfortable section for them."
- Lynzie Heggen



"It was really fun being able to help everyone, and being looked up to, and forming relationships with all the underclassmen."
- Riley Hawotte

One Fearless Leader

"As a staff member, going to competitions has a different meaning. What makes them so special is just seeing the kids perform their best show. I love seeing all the kids' smiles coming off the field, and seeing the audience, and giving them a show they will remember."
- Peter Carlin, on what it's like going to competitions

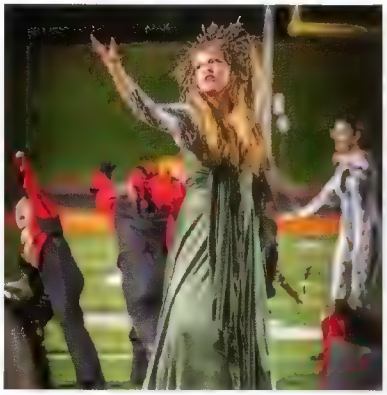
One Beautiful Band

From hot July summer rehearsals to frigid October night performances, putting together a marching band show on the field takes time and commitment. This season, the Pride of Rock Island did a show entitled, 'Beautiful Tragedy', which is about the heartbreaking story of Medusa.

The season starts with learning the basics during two weeks of summer band camp. This gets them ready for the Friday night football games that quickly become a highlight of the season. "Some of the hard things about the season is maintaining the work we've done, and then attacking the new and harder parts, while staying motivated," stated Carlin.

It's not a marching band season, though, until the competitions come around. The band competed in four competitions, BOA Iowa, Morton, WIU, and BOA Indianapolis. The band got 3rd place at the Morton Competition. They dominated at WIU, when they came home with 1st place in Percussion, 1st place in Wind Ensemble, 1st place in Drum Majors, and, of course, 1st place in Class 4A. "The kids have done really well at going out there, and performing a really good show, and trying their best," explained Carlin.

The band wouldn't be anywhere without its staff and mentors, and they are all cherished by the students. The seniors are sad to say goodbye to this beloved band and its staff, but they've never been more grateful for this glorious opportunity.



One Last Dance

"Performing as Medusa was the craziest character I have ever had to play. It was very hard for me to try and connect to some of the things she represents because we have very different personalities. I did research on the Medusa story, and how to portray her correctly to make it easier for myself to open up to her character. I think I enjoyed how challenging the role was, and how I got to push my performance skills with it. One thing I will always remember from being in this band for 5 years is family. Carlin creates an amazing family atmosphere with his Marching Band program, and I will never forget the bonds I have created with others during this season and the past ones."
- Kaylee Plohr, on having such a big role in the Marching Band

"The best part of band is going to BOA in Indianapolis, and being a student leader. It felt good, being able to show everyone else how to march, and help them wherever they need it."
- Nemo Rodriguez

"My favorite part was being able to help, and teach the new students. Then, it felt very good watching them improve. Going to all the competitions with everyone is always so fun."
- Asia Stern

"My favorite part of this year's band season was probably at BOA. Being a student leader was great in showing other band members how to be a better player."
- Julian Anderson

Follow the Leader

**Pictures Courtesy of Josh Parr

one **MOMENT** in the **SPOTLIGHT**

"I always enjoy learning new music and challenging myself. I love seeing my friends at the concerts!"
- Cody Wolf

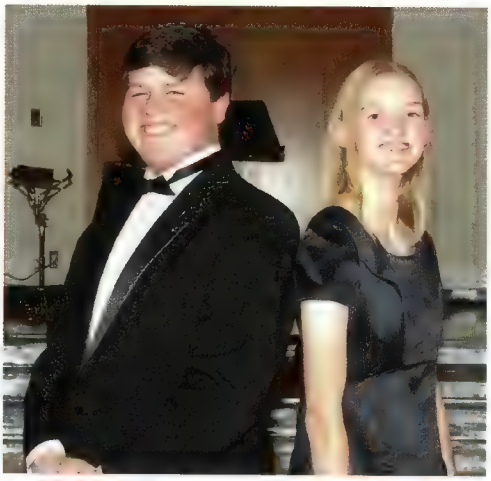
"I love the Concert Band because we get to focus on techniques, becoming better players, and we get to have a variety of styles in music to perform. I love the auditorium, and performing in there because it is a beautiful performance space from a different time. It gives our students the chance to perform in a large performance space that most high schools do not have at their disposal."
- Mr. Carlin

"I like playing music that challenges me, and being able to play in percussion ensembles, and my favorite part is when the percussion joins the winds before the concert, and you get to hear it all come together."
- Keller Mathews

"I realize how much I learn each year, and how in the past years, it helped me get better, as a player, for myself, and for Marching Band. I enjoy the fun atmosphere of Symphonic Band."
- Lynzie Heggen (left)

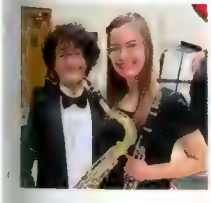
"I liked how the difficulty of the music changed, and how it brought more and better challenges that Concert Band didn't."
- Nemo Rodriguez

Return from All-State



"It is an amazing opportunity for the best of the best young musicians to perform in ensembles together. It's such an honor for me to be a part of such a talented, hardworking ensemble. Advice I would give would be that talent isn't everything. Hard work is an overwhelming majority. You have to be passionate about what you do as a musician to get there."
- Harrison Braddy

"Being an All-State musician means representing my school in the highest regard. It also is a reward for all of the work I have put into musicianship. For future musicians, I would say, 'Never give up and work hard.' Nothing worthwhile is easy."
- Natalie Pothoven



"I have enjoyed getting to learn new techniques and general knowledge about music. I also love playing with my friends that I've made throughout the years."
- Ella Hansen (right)

"It was sad playing my last band concert because it was a bittersweet moment for me. I will always miss it."
- Ava Stonehouse

"I like playing in a smaller group because my instrument gets heard, when it normally isn't noticed. I also like that the difficulty isn't as high, and it's more laid back."
- Maddie Maidak (left)

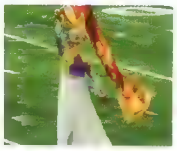
**Pictures courtesy of Josh Parr

First Toss

"The challenging part was the counting, and actually moving with the flag and spinning."
QUINN FEIGLEY

"A challenge was really keeping facial expressions up and having dramatic movements, kind of like acting on field."
BEAUTIFUL WAH

"A challenge was getting the hang of not just spinning the flag, but also the new experience of competing."
ALLIE DOWNING



"I found it was difficult to march on beat. Either I was late or too early, and when I count out loud, I would lose track, and found it hard to get back in."
LAH PAW

"I struggled with the urge to quit after every difficult task that we had to learn. Ultimately, I decided to persevere, and put in hard work, which definitely paid off."
DINYE NTIRUVAKURE

one show stopping MOMENT

"An amazing, show stopping moment was the moment at BOA, when it hits you halfway through the show that you are actually in the Colts' stadium, performing in BOA."
- Whitney Stivers

Truths of the Tragedy

During the show, the Color Guard had a 12, 24, and 8 count to get Medusa almost fully changed, and get the people helping her changed.

On the field, the Guard marches toe, heel, where everyone else marches heel, toe.

This year, the Guard dresses came in, in the wrong color. They originally came in gray, and had to be sent back to get the purple tops that were originally planned.

Pictures courtesy of Josh Parr

A Program Unlike Any Other at the Rock

"Incubator EDU is the only class where experts in their field work with the students one on one, on a regular basis. The teams pitch their business ideas to potential investors, and the winning team wins $5,000."
- Mrs. Matson

"To me, being in the Incubator program is a completely different experience than any other class I've been in. It has allowed the students to have a completely new form of creativity and freedom. It allows students to put their new and influential ideas on paper, and bring them to life."
- Alexis Engels (12)

one MOMENT you'll remember

"The best part of every year is when the students realize that every great business started by solving a problem."
- Mrs. Matson

Getting Down to Business

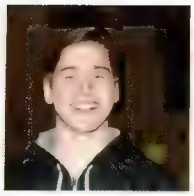
This is a program where students can learn how to create a business, and present their ideas for actual funding.

The Incubator Entrepreneurship Program is a nationally recognized program that Rocky is lucky enough to participate in each year. Students learn several business and career related skills, "including soft skills like pubic speaking, collaboration, meeting deadlines, and problem solving, but the ultimate goal would be to build a sustainable, scalable business, and secure funding. Students participate in problem solving, product development, as well as MVP (minimum viable product)," Mrs. Matson explained. They work with mentors, Bill Stengel, Tracy Singleton, Shay Moore, Jason Kitterman, and Marcy Mendenhall to help develop their ideas.

This year, nine groups started working on nine different businesses. They developed their ideas and put those plans into action. Their biggest challenge was doing financial analysis associated with building their businesses.

Mrs. Matson hopes that they "come away with the aforementioned skills and a sense of what they can really accomplish in their lives, as they leave RIHS," she explained. Her favorite aspect of this class would to be watching her students do their pitches.

"My favorite part of being in Rotary Club is getting to work towards real goals that benefit the school, community, and even communities internationally."
Julian Anderson, 12



"The RYLA Camp had lots of fun people, cool activities, and passionate presentations"
Lucas Rettig, 12

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

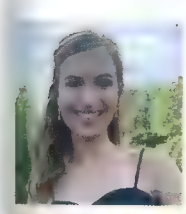
"I will always remember the giant watermelon from the school garden. We should have entered them in a contest!"
- Mr. Behnke

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

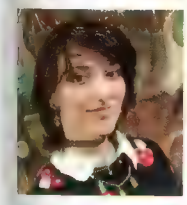
The Rotary Interact Club is a community service organization led by Mr. Lonnie Behnke. He says, "The singular goal of Rotary is to help mankind." Mr. Behnke decided to advise this club because he has been involved with a couple of adult Rotary Clubs himself, and believes in their purpose. Mr. Behnke has been leading the Rotary Interact Club since the Spring of 2022.

Just this year, the club raised enough money to purchase a water filter for a third world country for clean water availability. They helped maintain and harvest the school garden. The club is also working on cleaning up and revitalizing the school greenhouse. Rotary Club's future plans are to help plant the school garden in the spring. They will also be assisting the Rock Island Adult Rotary Club with their activities. They have two students each month attend the meetings off campus.

Mr. Behnke hopes the club teaches its participants the value of helping others, and being leaders in their community. He says, "The students that want to join this club are just of the highest character, and we have fun! We've competed in the Rotary trivia night, sold grilled corn at the Milan Festival, and helped decorate a tree for the Festival of Trees. Plus, we sell giant pickles for our fundraiser- BECAUSE ROTARY IS A BIG DILL!"



"I've loved theatre since I was little, and the welcoming, joyous environment of Drama Club really inspired me to join." Ella Hansen, 12



"I decided to join the Drama Club because it's a great way to meet really fun people, and it's just an amazing experience!" Nyx King, 10

"I found a group of people who shared my interest, and wanted to get to know me. I've never had a place to go where I know everybody and everybody knows me, which is what I was hoping to find when I joined the club - and after 4 years, I think I can say I found it." - Gale Hauskins

"I've been involved in theatre my entire life, but really got into it when I was about 8." Danny Hauskins, 10

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"One of my favorite memories from Drama Club is getting to dance on table tops in Oliver!" - Ella Hansen, 12

MORE THAN **BEING ON STAGE**

While many Drama Club students are involved in the Fall Play, the Winter Showcase, and the Spring Musical, Rocky's Drama Club does much more than just those three projects. This year, the club put on Hot Shakes, a fundraiser for the Student Hunger Drive, led workshops for the Quad City Youth Conference, volunteered at the Festival of Trees, participated in an improv workshop with Circa 21 actors, and attended the Illinois High School Theatre Festival.

Led by Mrs. Dori Foster, and club officers, Gale Hauskins, Ella Hansen, Nyx King, and Danny Hauskins, the group has enjoyed more participants and a great variety of activities. Mrs. Foster stated, "We do 3 shows each year, and find other ways to support the school and community through other projects."

Foster has been in charge of the club for 18 years now, and the club continues to be one of the most active on campus. The group has a lifelong impact on its members, as well. Foster explained, "So much happens to us when we work on a show for an audience. The personal and artistic growth is often unmeasurable. If my students can look back years from now, and say they had a good time, learned a lot, or find themselves still involved in or seeing theatre, then I've done my job."

one **SHOW** you'll remember

"I met great people, and the show was fun because it's a show not a lot of people do, and it was great to finally be able to do a spring musical."
- Joy Kitterman, 11

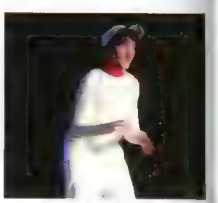
Mr. Lead

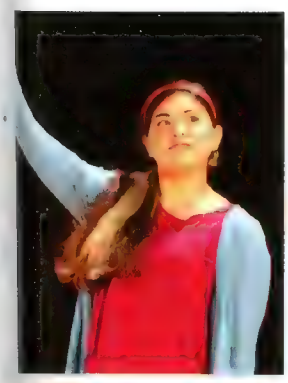
Brennan Hampton starred as a lead in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" as Charlie Brown, himself. "I loved meeting new people, and being able to be on the Rocky stage."
- Brennan Hampton, 12

"I liked getting to perform and create with new people and friends."
Kylen Brozvich, 11

"I really enjoy building relationships with the cast. Performing with friends is one of the best parts, for sure!"
Brennan Hampton, 12

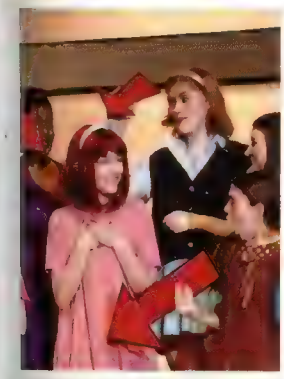
"I love how close we all got. It was like a big, chaotic family. Overall, just a great experience."
Nyx King, 10





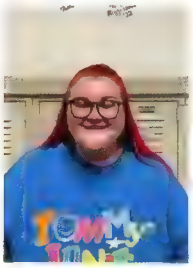
Fast Takes With Foster

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" hit the Rocky stage for the second time, and Mrs. Dorian Foster was lucky enough to direct the show both times. She explains her appreciation for the show, stating, "I think being able to include so many people in so many different ways on stage, and the creativity, exploded with this show." Foster looks forward to Doubles Week every year because of the amount of amazing work that gets accomplished before show week.



"It's really fun when we first perform the music, and then, eventually, we join with the actual actors, and see how our music fits in, and it's really interesting to see that I also have made many new friends, and spent so much time together with them. It's so very fun in that aspect, as well."

Asia Stern, 11



"The favorite thing about being behind the scenes for musical is knowing that I can perform well under pressure. If I do my job correctly and shamelessly, the entire show runs smoother, which will make everyone feel amazing after bows. I also love the camaraderie that will probably be there for the rest of our lives."

B. Hinton, 11

"Of course, I think my favorite part was just to see it all come together on show nights. The hard work and time that was put in, especially by all of us (especially Gale and Logan) really paid off. It was also great to get to know a lot of people I didn't know, and get closer than I ever thought I would before."

Danny Hauskins, 10

"My favorite part is seeing how everything set up is used in their own little way."

Nemo Rodrigez, 12

Part Two!

Directing a show for the second time can be a challenge, but Mrs. Foster did just that with "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." A goal of Foster's was "bringing as many creative people back together to put on a solid production, and build an understudy process for our performers." This year's musical utilized two groups of performers, allowing for more students to participate in lead roles on stage.

All involved were glad to get back into the theatre after a year away from putting on a musical. New traditions developed while the group celebrated old ones. Foster says, "There was a lot of joy and hard work from a lot of great people."

"I liked the rehearsals and hard work leading up to the performances to finally show your hard work on the Rocky Stage."

Joy Kitterman, 11

"Some of my favorite high school memories have taken place on the stage at Rocky. It's a time when I get to be with my friends, doing what I love."

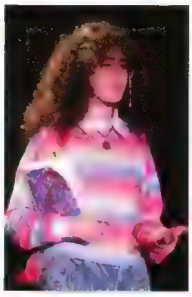
Ella Hansen, 12

"I like being able to pull off something very great with the people I've come to know in the cast."

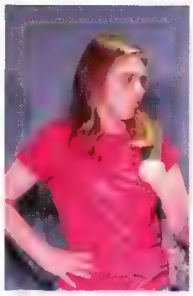
Thom Elliot, 10

"Being in the Fall Play was a very interesting and fulfilling experience. We all worked very hard to memorize all of our lines and act out the characters. Even though the actors do tend to get a little bit quirky at night, it was still a really fun experience!"
- Kai Boswell

"This was a very fun production, and it was great to work with everyone to put the show together! Zelda was such a fun character to interpret. I love how extroverted and out there she is."
- Zafi Hassan



"I liked meeting new people and working with someone who was new to the experience. I liked my character because I feel like I can relate to her. We're both quiet and like to read."
- Lauren Gottcent



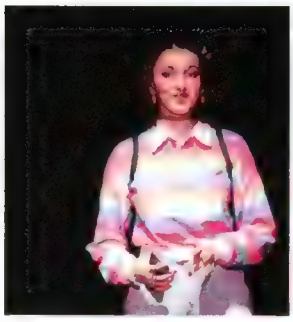
"I enjoyed the subtle foreshadowing and mystery of the show. I also appreciate how unlike most of the other characters with strong personalities, Anthony was reserved and subtle, but ended up showing some very courageous characteristics in the end."
- Thom Elliott

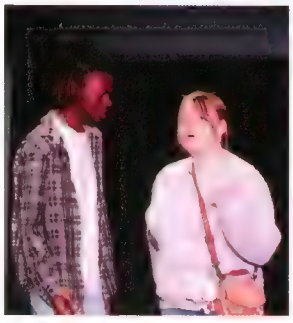
"I mostly liked meeting new people and getting to spend a lot of time in the Little Theater. I also really just loved how dumb my character was."
- Dreshawn Randolph

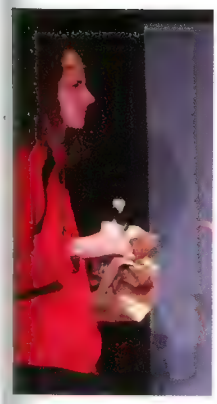
"I really enjoyed playing Cody because between this play and Winter Showcase, I've discovered I enjoy to play 'mean' characters. It was so funny to be able to yell at everyone, but also fun to make friends with those same people offstage."
Kat Jacoby

GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE

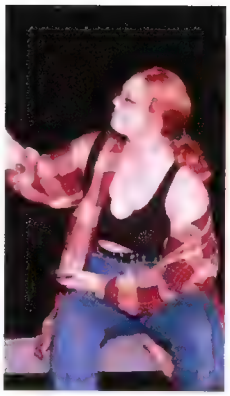
Rocky's Fall Play for the 2022 school year follows a random group of students, plagued by mysterious text messages that bring them together in a macabre manner.





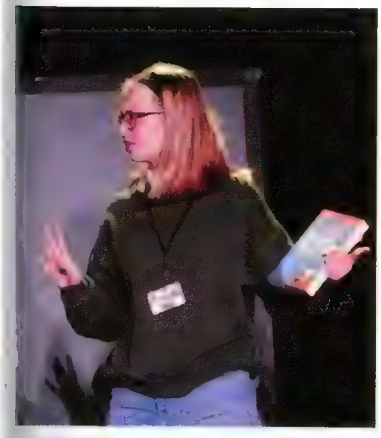


"I think doing this show was a fantastic experience for me, as an actor and as a person. I think the character was a lot of fun to play, especially because we share a lot of similarities, and my counterpart was was a lot of fun to work with!"
- Danny Hauskins



"I loved my character, and I think my favorite part is how much she shows her true self throughout the show. My favorite part of the show was definitely meeting and getting to know the cast! They are all such talented and amazing people."
- Kassandra Miller

"The show was a blast to put on. All the other actors were so ridiculously nice. I loved the character Cody because I personally think I have a fabulous resting mean face, and all the sarcasm was super fun."
- Alex VandeWalle



ONE LAST BOW

Rocky's Fall Play, "Ghost in the Machine" was loved by all of its cast members. The very unique plot consisted of a group of unsuspecting teenagers getting unnerving text messages from unknown numbers, then all being brought together because of it.

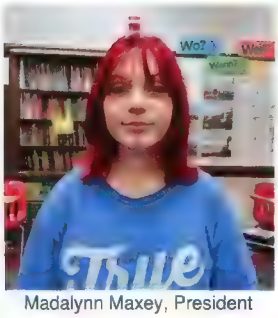
The Director, Mrs. Foster, was happy with the production process, especially since the play was double cast. The production being mostly student led, according to Foster, meant that there was a lot of room for students to step up and be good role models for their peers.

Brennan Hampton, a senior in the production, said, "I loved being a role model in the play process. I get to offer guidance and support for those who need it, and pass on old senior traditions." He also believed a huge part of the play's success was that the cast was so invested. This year's show featured two seniors, Brennan Hampton and Kassandra Miller, who took their last bows for their high school fall play careers.

Rocky's Theater Director, Mrs. Foster, said this show was a blast to put on. She stated, "I was able to sit and watch the show, while the students ran the whole thing." Foster then reiterated how imperative it is to have good leaders within the group, saying, "It certainly helps to have strong student leadership within the group- it makes my job a whole heck of a lot easier."

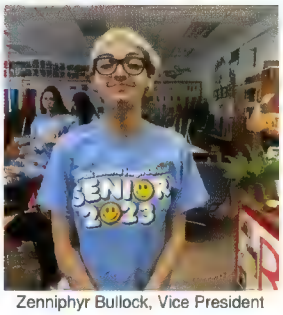
ONE MORE TEXT

German Club Leaders



Madalynn Maxey, President

Herr Eli, Advisor



Zenniphyr Bullock, Vice President

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"When I first joined last year, everyone was nice to me, even when I knew nothing in German."
- Gillian Maxey

GERMAN CLUB'S IMPACT

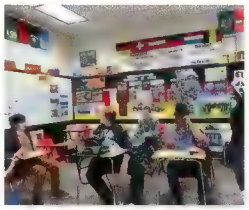
One of the many clubs Rocky offers is the German Club, ran by Mr. Eli, the school's German language teacher. Eli has been in charge of this club since he started teaching. This club provides "a space for students to enjoy learning more about German-speaking countries, and interacting with each other," states Eli.

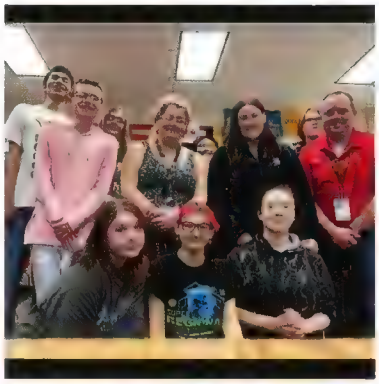
Along with creating a safe atmosphere for students, there are many fun activities that students who want to learn more about Germany outside of class can participate in. According to Eli, "Our members learn about German language, culture, and history."

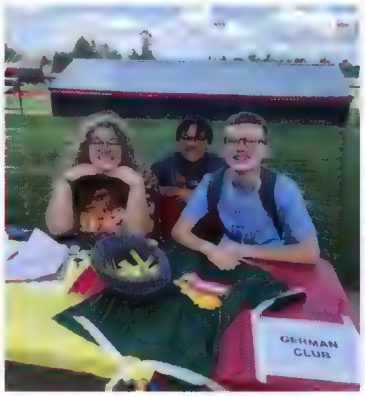
There are many traditions that lie within these learning opportunities. Eli mentions some of the different traditions being the "Welcome Back and Farewell Picnics, Homecoming hallway decorating, marching in the Homecoming Parade, the Halloween Party, and the holiday gift exchange."

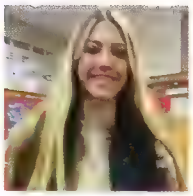
The club also has a major impact on its participants, as well. Madalynn Maxey, a senior and President, states, "I enjoy going to German Club. I love my club, and everyone in it. I will always enjoy the pure happiness and fun of German Cub. It's free of judgment, and everyone always fits in together." They love participating in the activites every meeting, and being able to converse with people who have the same love of Germany. "My favorite thing about this club is that we're all like one close family. We always have a good time, and we always seem to have a bunch of laughter," they state.

The German Club is a great way for students to learn about the country outside of class, and has such a positive impact on the students who are involved with it.



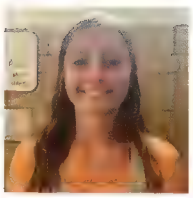




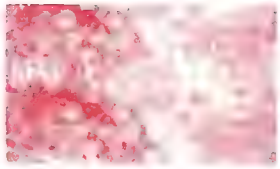


"I think it's important to have a group promoting mental health here at school because it's showing that someone is there for you, and that you are never alone."
- Alayna McKinley

"My favorite aspect of the group is the relationship and bond we all have created with each other. I love how comfortable we have gotten with each other to be able to share our feelings without being judged."
- Denise Carr



"The club is important because it sends a message that people actually care about mental health, and it gives people the chance to make a change in the building."
- Alexis Carroll



A MOMENT OF HOPE

"By educating, building community, and bringing mental health awareness to anyone and everyone who needs it, we are working to create a world without suicide- because every person matters."
- Mrs. Greenwood, Club Advisor

The Gray Matters Collective is a club that highlights the importance of mental health among students. The aim of the group is to push mental health to the forefront of public conversation, and instill hope into students, who may feel alone in their issues. Mrs. Michelle Greenwood, the advisor, says, "We witnessed the smiles on students' faces when they saw the messages in front of the school we created out of chalk. I hope our messages have helped a few other students along the way. You never know who may see a shirt or poster, and feel better about their struggles or situation."

The group members participated in many community wide events, all meant to raise funding and awareness for mental health. They participated in the Starry Night Gala, the Everglow Dance Marathon, and will have another Gray Matters event in the spring that is yet to be determined.

"By being a part of this group, I hope students know that there is always going to be someone who cares about them. I hope they realize how important they are to this world, and how much they matter," says Greenwood.

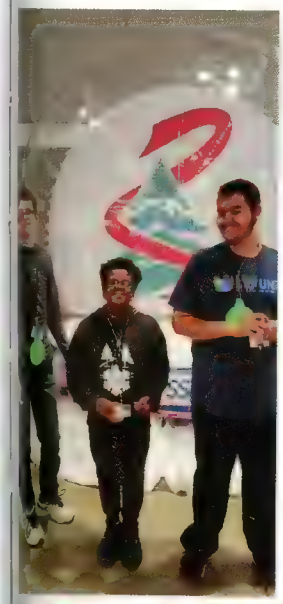
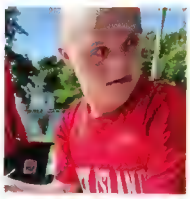
FUN!damentals

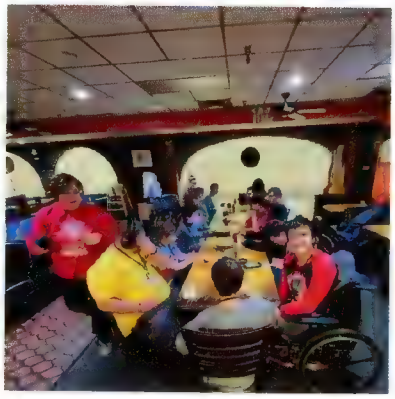
"I like to see and hang out with my friends. I like to learn new basketball tricks and skills. I love shooting three pointers the most."
Drew DeMarlie

"Meeting new people that I have never seen or known before. I like when we first go into the buildings we played in, and started shooting and playing. I also love basketball."
Frank Holmes

"I love basketball. I like getting rebounds and practicing my threes."
Colin Benisch

"Meeting new people and new friends. I am new to the school, and I came from Arkansas. Basketball is my favorite game, and part of playing is winning. I love playing basketball."
Jeremiah Taylor



An average day in Rocky's Functional Skills classrooms looks like many other classes, although with smaller class sizes. Mrs. Stacey Rel explains, "We do work on concepts that same age peers already know. Our focus is more on functional skills that are needed in real life. We want to make sure our students are as independent as possible."

Both Mrs. Rel and Ms. Meghan Miers share a passion for teaching special education students, which stems from past experiences with people they were close to. Both teachers knew this role was for them. "I wanted to make school a safe, welcoming, and less stressed environment for kids with special needs," Miers says. Her favorite part of their day is advisory, since it's used as a relaxation part of their busy schedule. She gets to see her students socialize, and just "hang out with their friends for 25 minutes during the school day, and see each student's personality come out."

One way the students practice independence is taking community-based instructional trips. They go to grocery stores, restaurants, the Festival of Trees, Happy Joe's Holiday Party, and the Special Olympic Games. These activities teach students restaurant etiquette, the city bus systems, how to order, how to pay, personal hygiene, and socializing skills. "Each trip, we take is a step closer to that goal (of giving students independence and confidence)," Miers adds.

First Snow Hot Chocolate!

When it snows for the first time during the year, the class stops, and all the students make hot chocolate!

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"Raising over $7,000 at Dance Marathon my junior year!"

- Mari Chruchill (12)

The Women Behind It All

"I believe I have a set of skills that allows me to help plan fun events that students enjoy. I am passionate about organizing fundraisers and events that the school can be proud of, and look forward to, year to year. I love getting to know students in a different capacity than in just the classroom."
- Mrs. Young

"I enjoy leading Student Council because it's rewarding to see our members be leaders, be creative, and have fun. Students have so many wonderful ideas, and I think Student Council is a space that allows them to take that initiative."
- Mrs. Mertel

The first step to organizing Homecoming Week is coming up with a theme.

Secondly, Student Council makes creative shirts and tickets for students to purchase based on the Homecoming theme.

Next, members of StuCo and the rest of the school decorate the halls based on the theme.

"I have been a part of Student Council since elementary school, so being elected for President is so special to me. I enjoy helping out in any way that I can, as well as being involved with the school and community, so it is an honor to have this role."
- President, Kaiya McKinley (12)

"It honestly feels amazing! Considering this was my first year in Student Council, and yet, I was selected for this honorable position. I worked hard to be selected, so my work paid off."
- VP, Aline Niyogusenga (12)

STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERS

THERE'S NO "I" IN TEAM

Rock Island High School's Student Council leads helpful and fun events throughout the school year to serve the community. Although Stu Co has numerous members, it could not be done without the leaders! Mrs. Young and Mrs. Mertel take up a big challenge every year, and lead the group and all of its activities.

"I enjoy looking back on successful events, seeing our hard work and ideas contributed! It makes me happy to know that the work we do in Student Council is appreciated by students, the community, and other teachers," says Mrs. Young. The time and effort that Stu Co puts into their events is truly inspiring. She also explains the events they host at Rocky are Rally at the Rock, Homecoming (which includes Spirit Week, the pep rally, the parade, and the dance), blood drives, Student Hunger Drive, Dance Marathon, and Teacher Appreciation Week. These events often go beyond just helping the school, but the greater area, too.

The ultimate goal of Student Council is described by Mrs. Mertel as, "We want to give our students a voice. These are ultimately their events, not ours, so I hope we always let them feel empowered." Mrs. Mertel and Mrs. Young want to teach their members to continue to creatively serve their community, and have fun while doing it.

Seniors In Our StuCo

Rocky's Student Council has a tradition of senior leadership. Often, these students have participated in the group for years prior to their senior year, and are now ready to take on leadership roles.

"It's exciting because seeing an event you planned come to life is so rewarding. And, seeing everyone enjoy and having fun at the events is always exciting."

Camryn Milefchik (12)

"It feels pretty good, to be honest, being able to help with events and organize school events for our own enjoyment."

Denise Carr (12)

"I like being able to have a big impact on the different school events because you get to work with your friends, and it's a lot of fun planning and participating in different events."

Nate Gottcent (12)

To follow, the Student Council works to instill pride in the school by encouraging everyone to dress up for Spirit Week.

It's almost dance time! StuCo members decorate the gym for the dance.

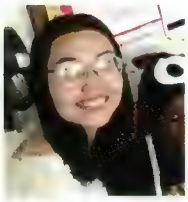
Lastly, members wrap Homecoming up, and clean the gym after the dance.

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

"The French picnic will always be a memory I'll never forget. It was really fun bonding with friends, and getting to know the German students, as well." - Denise Carr

"My favorite part about being in French Club is being able to hang out with Madam B. I also like all of the food Madam brings."

- Joslynn Henderson

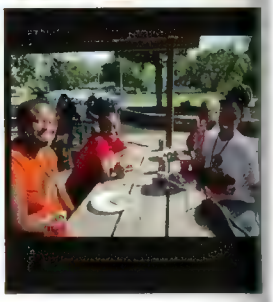


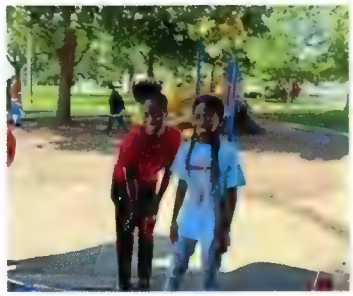
"My favorite aspect of French Club was all of the food we get."

- Hser Ner

"My favorite aspect was the homey vibe it had. Everyone was really nice, and it was a good place to make new friendships. The different activities we participated in helped us learn French, in a fun way."

- Aline Niyogusenga





French Club, led by Madam Bouchareb and Mrs. Pearson, brought fun events and opportunities for members to create and share throughout the year. From the annual German and French Club start of the school year picnic - to the spectacular holiday parties, filled with great ethnic food from different countries, the Rock Island High School French Club knows how to throw fabulous festivities to illustrate the cultural diversity at Rocky, and encourage students to study the French culture and language.

"Art Club gives us time to express our creativity after school. Right now, we are making Valentines to raise money for a field trip to Chicago!"
Roxanne Hobert

"It's the best place to be yourself and be creative. These people are very welcoming, and have become my family."
Maisy Woods

"I love Art Club because I get to bond with my friends over a shared interest of art. It makes me feel included."

Gracie Scheper

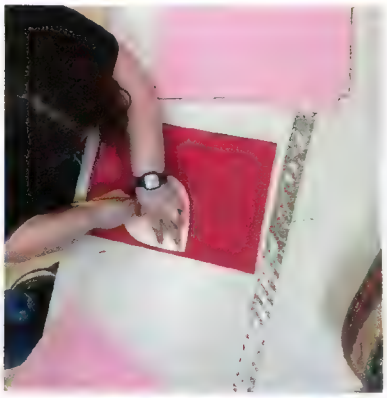
"I love having the opportunity to talk with students more in depth about their own passions and focusing on their explorations in the arts."
Mr. Schriefer

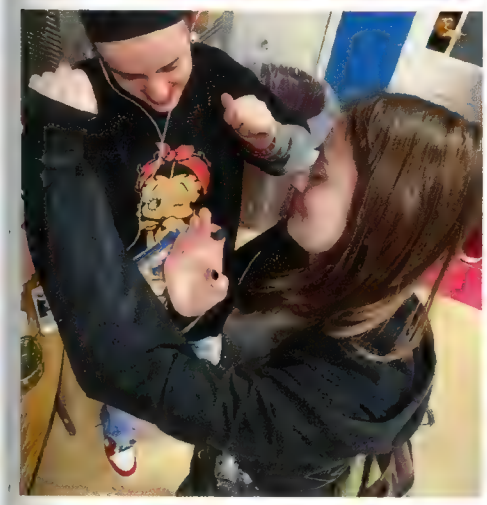
one STUDIO

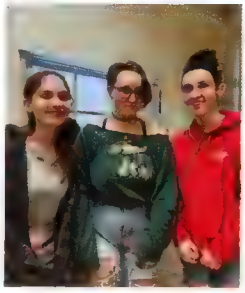
"My favorite thing we do is pass around the club sketchbook!"
Gracie Scheper

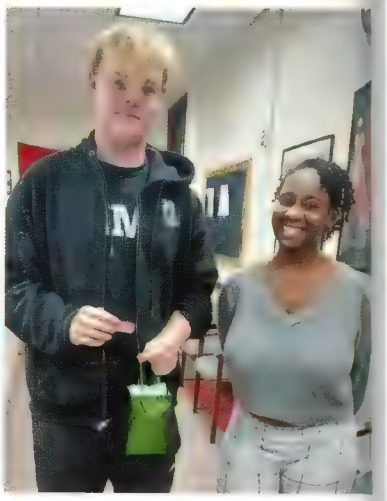
A SPACE FOR INFINITE CREATIVITY

Rocky's new Art Club is an open environment that encourages students to try different art mediums and activities. It's a place for people to come together, create, and be yourself! Together, students do different group projects, and are encouraged to have their own takes on creative prompts and ideas.









PRIDE in our Heritage

The African American Heritage Club is here to educate members and the community on the culture, history, and the current state of the African American lived experience, while instilling pride and understanding that will support, improve, and uplift others. The African American Heritage Club wants to inspire youth to further their education, and become leaders in their communities, while giving back in service. Students involved in this club participate in community discussions, service work, college tours, and fundraising. They also present on various African American related topics. One of the African American Heritage Club advisors, Dr. Williams, says, "We hope the students learn to love and appreciate the culture and heritage of African Americans. We also want students to learn to work as a team, and gain leadership skills that can easily transfer into various spaces of opportunities."

This year, the African American Heritage Club has had memorable times while traveling to various Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), presenting on the Greek Organizations, hosting their Black History Program, and selling raffle tickets during lunch to raise funds for their HBCU college trip tour. The leaders of the African American Heritage Club include Shyaunna Mitchell (President), Leya Ntiebuwayo (Vice President #1), Aline Niyogusenga (Vice President #2), Fabiola Murebereza (Secretary #1), Nelie Ninahazwe (Secretary #2), and Beline Shukuru (Treasurer), as well as advisors, Dr. Williams and Dr. Grandberry Pugh.

one MOMENT you'll remember

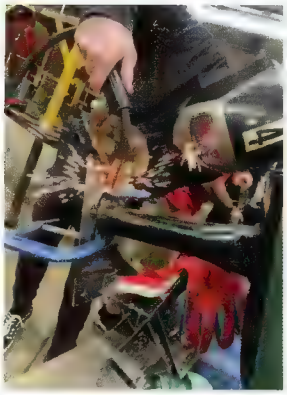
"The Black History program that we're planning, because we've all worked so hard on it, as students."
- Aline Niyogusenga

A FULL FEBRUARY

The African American Heritage Club was very active during Black History month, as they attended an event at Augustana College, called Step Africa, and put on their own Black History assembly at the high school, which included a step performance, music, inspiring speeches, and the history of the Divine 9.

one **MOMENT** you'll remember

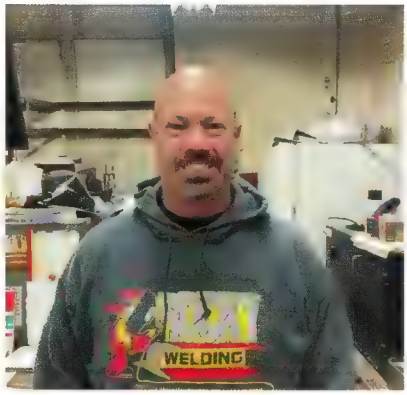
"Building a tricycle with Ben in class."
- John Rohwer



The fire pits were a welding project the group has worked on. This year, the group focused on tacking the sides up and "making sure it looks good," Weber explained. This project was sent from another area high school.

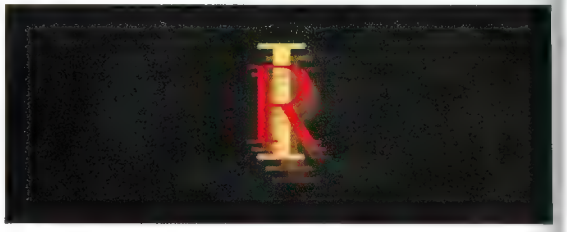
Mr. Weber

"The benefits of welding are that you can learn a skill that you can always use to have a career and make money, to support yourself throughout your life, whether you do it part time, on the side, or an actual career. The benefits are not just to have a career in welding. Welding is used in all of the trades that you go into, and you will be able to use that anywhere and anytime."



ROCK SOLID

welders



THE WORLD OF WELDING AT THE ROCK

"Setting up the Rock Island Grand Prix was a lot of hard work, but it was also really fun. We got to miss school for almost a week, hang out with our friends, and we helped raise money for the welding program."
- **Ben Oliver**

"It was kind of fun, actually. We got split up into 2 groups - upstairs and downstairs crew, and it's fun to joke around and build friendships. It wasn't that bad of work either, just a little bit of manual labor, but just a great time all around."
- **Noah Keever**

Mr. Weber and Mr. Kitterman work as teachers in the Welding Department at RIHS. Taking welding can show students opportunities they didn't know were there. Students can learn MIG welding, TIG welding, and Stick welding, better known as arc welding.

But by taking the class, students can also learn how to cut and braze with oxy acetylene and plasma. Mr. Weber also takes pride in making sure all of his students get the best possible grade.

This year, the welding class got to help with the Rock Island Grand Prix. This is one of the many experiences that students can be able to be a part of in the program. The more people that went, the more they got done. Weber said, "It gives the students some experience working with other people."

Being in welding class can help students find a career, students can learn what to do when something goes wrong, and it helps students to learn all the tools that are needed in a career. Welding class helps students learn how to weld, so joining the class doesn't require any previous experience with welding. Weber says students can use their skills "for the rest of their lives."

one moment
THAT MAKES US ROCKS

Throughout all the classes and tests taken in the school year, every student has one core value that remains the same, our Rocky Pride. One moment that no student can forget is expressing their love for our school in their own unique way. Whether that is showing up to games in theme, participating in spirit weeks, or even participating in the sports themselves.

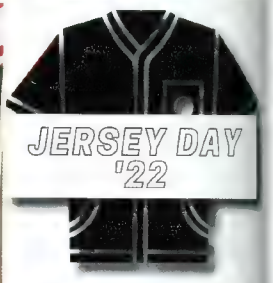
By us showing as much support as we do, it is what sets us apart from the rest. It has allowed us, as a whole, to form an outstanding and unbreakable bond. The memories we created through high school are some we will never forget. It helps shape us into the people we will become.

We are able to form forever friendships and bonds. We have been lucky to be able to create the most amazing support system, and our second home. We are able to view our classmates as family, and place our love and trust in them. With that, we are able to stand as one, and forever voice our Rock Pride.

ROCKS

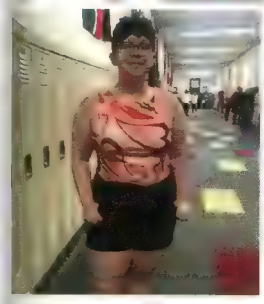
SPIRIT

DECADES DAY



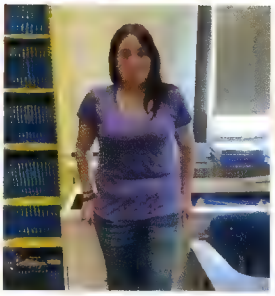
Red & Gold

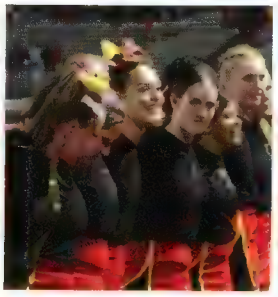
WEEK



Twin Day

CLASS COLOR DAY



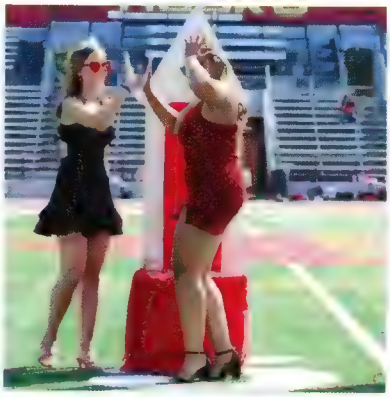


Homecoming court

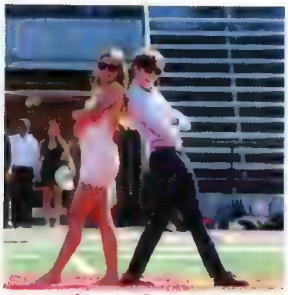
Quinci Bumgarner
& Law Dee

Kayla Rice & DesMond
Woodson

Maricela Churchill
& Bryce Lowry

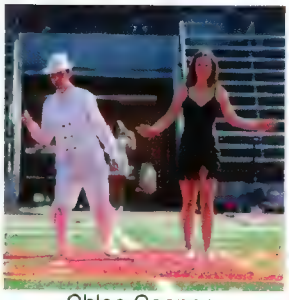


Denise Carr
& John Rohwer



Alexis Carroll
& Keller Mathews

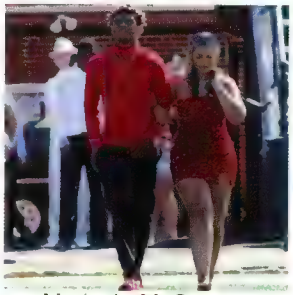
Ava Dietz
& Terrmell Akers



Chloe Cooper
& Dylan James

Vix Dang & Niyitunga
Jeanvier

ROOKIE



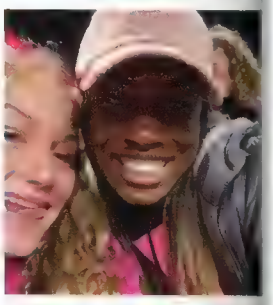
Mariyah McQueen
& Quonterrion Brooks

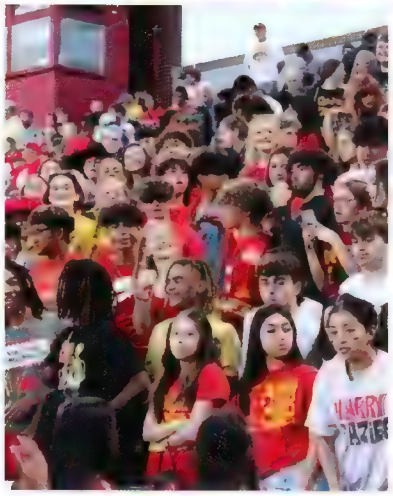
Ella Hansen
& Carter Cupp

HOCO 2022

LET ME SEE YOUR...

ROCKTOWN SPIRIT





8/26/22 WHITE OUT

9/2/22 CAMO

9/9/22 PURPLE

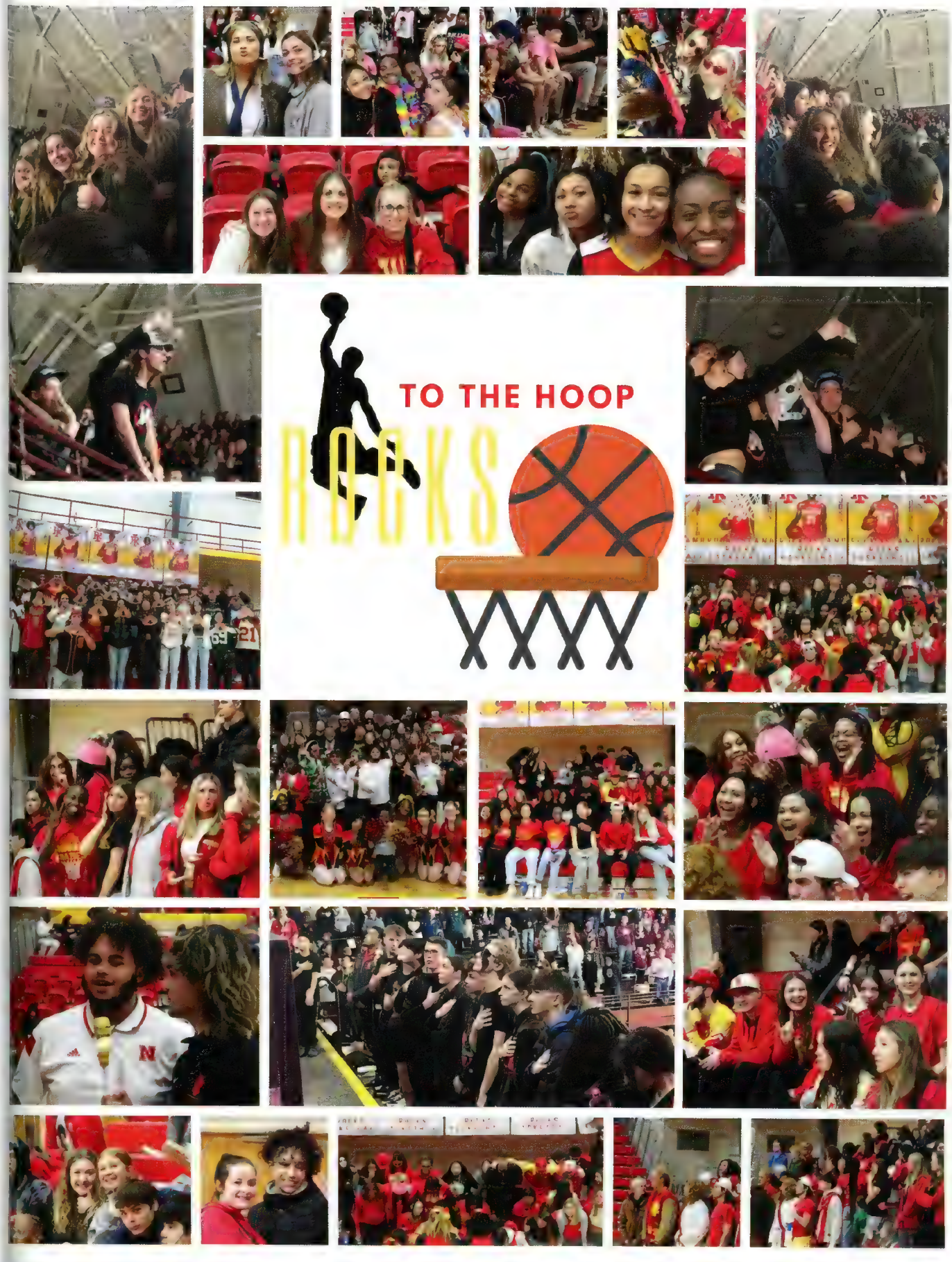
9/16/22 RED & GOLD

9/23/22 RED FLAG

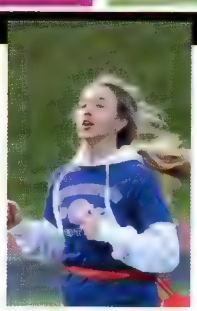
9/30/22 SUPER HERO

10/7/22 PAJAMAS

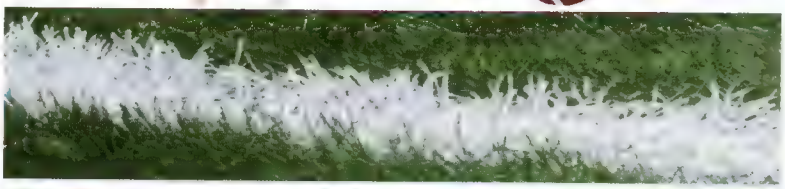
10/14/22 PINK OUT


TO THE HOOP
ROCKS

JUNIORS

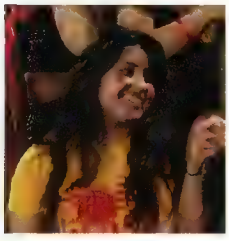


Powderpuff
2022 Showdown



SENIORS

FANS IN THE STANDS



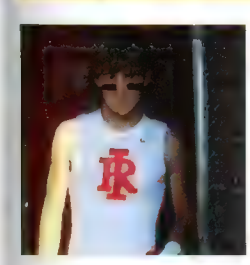
"My favorite part of being in the student section is sitting in the front row with all of my friends, and seeing everyone have fun."
- Angeliq Medrano

"My favorite part of the student section is hearing everyone cheer together, and dressing up for the themes."
- Montzerrat Meza-Pena

"My favorite part of being in the student section is leading it, and seeing everyone come together to cheer for the team."
- Mariyah McQueen

"My favorite part about the student section is when you hear the big horn go off when our team scores."
- Denise Carr

"My favorite part of the student section is hanging out with my friends, and painting up for the game."
- Quinci Bumgarner

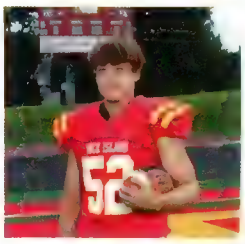


"The best part of being in the student section is really just cheering on the guys that have put in the work to show out for us."
- Conner Dilulio

"My favorite part of being in the student section is participating in the chants and cheers, and letting the team know we are here for them."
- Jaquez Smith

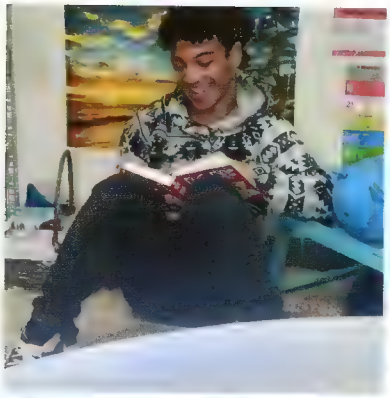
"My favorite part is the themes, and dressing up in stuff I would never wear. You're not just going to the basketball game, and just watching. You get to participate in something, and have fun with other students."
- Jace Bennett

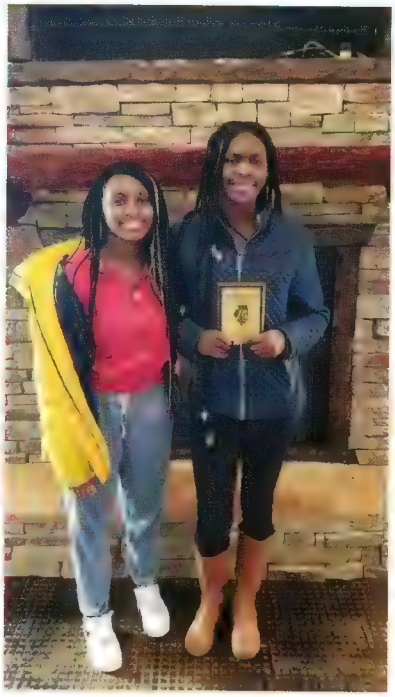
"My favorite thing about being in the student section is showing our Rock Island Spirit, and having a great time cheering for our team, court side."
- Isaiah Samuelson



"Personally, I think it's great to be able to support our basketball teams, and show our school spirit, while getting to be with our friends."
- John Rohwer

NO MATTER THE SPORT





QUA ST
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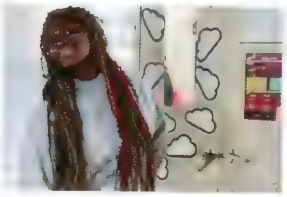
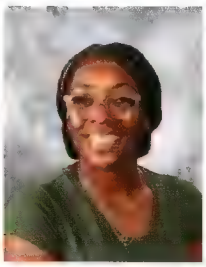
QU
REACH



Josh Akers

Lori Angel-Young

Megan Baker


Kimberly Bell

Christopher Britton

Patti Brooks

Anna Cervantes

Chalondra Clark

Amanda Crecelius

Tia Edwards

Johnna Gamble

Janice Gbenyo

Koffi Gbenyo

Shannon Griesenbeck

Darla Jones

Denise Lekwa

Moriah Masias

Amanda Mays

Michelle McDowell

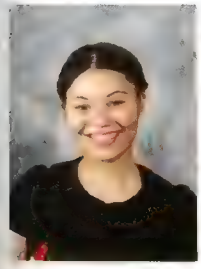
Melody Mote

Melissa Owen

Andrea Quinn

Katherine Reyhons

Keith Smith


Deja Swanigan

Lillian Taylor

Nathanael Thompson

Julia Vermeire

O'nita Watkins-Harris

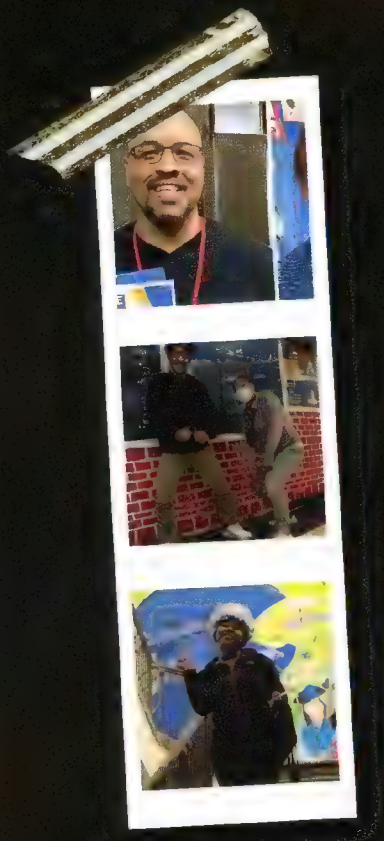
Selena Wellington

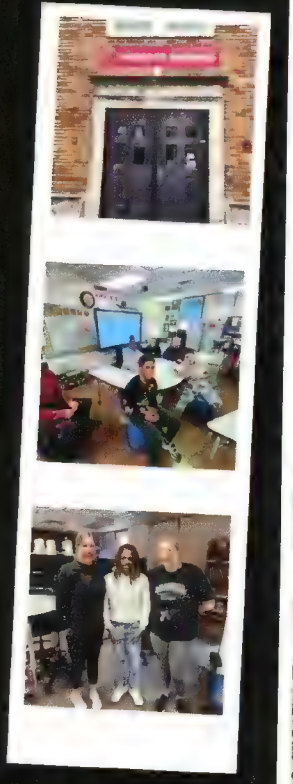
Qiana Wells

Michele Williams

Joseph Woods

THURGOOD MARSHALL LEARNING CENTER





A Poem from a TMLC Student

For years, I've been the quiet student in the class
who would go unnoticed
who would rather be marked absent than to
proclaim my presence
who would rather be confused than to dare and
raise my hand
but you changed my title the second I stepped foot
in your class
you picked up on my interests and fed them
you spoke words that made the gears in my head
rapidly turn
you opened my eyes to my potential and taught me
what to do with it
you watered my mind that's now flourishing with
hope
you altered my reality and I've stumbled across the
realization that I was never the quiet student
I was the student who needed someone to believe
in them
and now that the chapter of being in your class is
coming to an end
I can truthfully say you rerouted my next steps in a
greater direction

Thurgood Marshall Learning Center

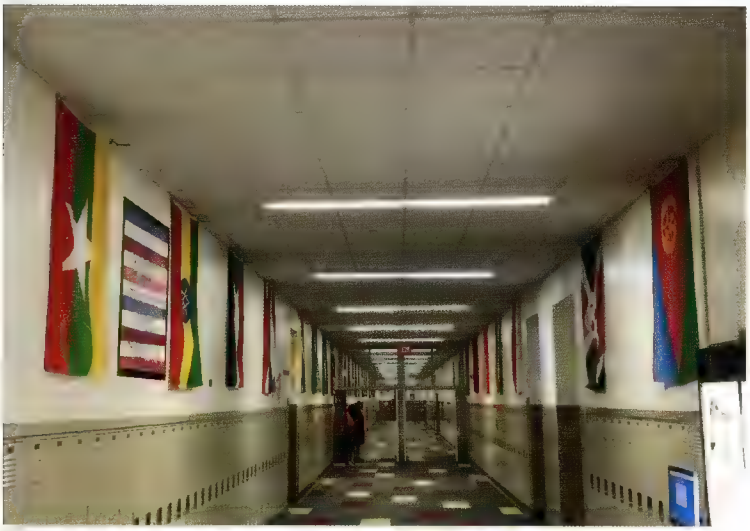
The motto of Thurgood Marshall Learning Center is to create a learning environment, fostering students' beliefs in their own self-worth and capacity for growth.

Their goal is for students to graduate, learn and use healthy social-emotional coping strategies, and advocate for themselves and others.

A typical day in TMLC is for students to check in, and then have class for 90 minute blocks of individualized instruction.

Rocky and Thurgood are very similar, except Thurgood has a smaller setting, and a smaller building.

Thurgood student are leaders who "press through the trauma of life, and persevere daily, by showing up, and coming to school. Small steps add up to big steps, and our students are leaders because they take the first step," explained TMLC principal, Mrs. Edwards.



Taking Pride In Our Diversity

Diversity is beautiful. And, that's what we have at Rocky, beauty. Beauty from all of the cultures that we're surrounded by. "Rock Island was deemed the most diverse district in Illinois! Our school diversity and culture honors, upholds, educates, and elevates the local community," says Mrs. Karen Davis, an EL teacher, who takes great pride in her job. There are more than 26 languages spoken at Rocky, and more than 11 places around the world that our students come from. EL teacher, Mrs. Maria Schrup says, "Diversity looks like you and I, and whoever comes through the door. It is all of those things that make us unique." Rocky's pride is rooted in our diverse student body.

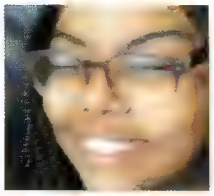
Vix Dang, Vietnamese Culture

"My culture, as a Vietnamese person, does not impact me as grandly as I think it would. Perhaps the little things- like taking off shoes before entering a house, or simply being respectful to elder relatives would impact me in some way, but I do think the most impactful thing that defines who I am that is vaguely a part of Vietnamese culture is the need to succeed, and be the best among peers. This mindset, embedded in me, has allowed me to rise above, but sink lower, in the way my peers behave- in the sense that I find myself detached from people my age, and have difficulties connecting, since I've been conditioned to be better, and do better. So, for me, the most impactful part of my culture, and what I think defines it for me, is that it's forced me to strive to be the best."

- Vix Dang, 12

My CultuRe...

Proud Of Our Cultures



"Being African American means that I wasn't really connected to my culture, so, African Americans had to make one for themselves. Hip Hop music, forms of dancing, soul food. The culture we made for ourselves is beautiful and special, even if everyone else doesn't understand it."

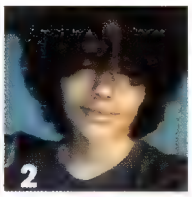
NJ Nocentelli, 10

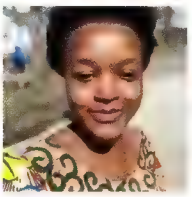
"My culture is Afghan. What my culture means to me is family comes before anything. I am proud of my culture because it brings everyone together from different regions and cultures in a time of happiness and sorrow."

Anjilika Barikzay, 12

"My culture is my identity. It's what I live by and for. I'm proud of it, and cherish it very much."

Cristee Paw, 12





One Delicacy

1. "My favorite delicacy would be Mo Paw Toh. It is flour and bamboo shoots, wrapped in banana leaf, which gets steamed. You can also add other ingredients to your liking. It tastes really good."
- Mu Phlay K'Tooe Soe, 10

2. "My favorite delicacy would probably be Chilaquiles. It has tortilla chips, scrambled eggs, cheese, shredded chicken, and veggies. It has a sauce that is kind of like a broth. The tortilla chips would get simmered in a brothy sauce."
- Mauricio Rivera-Martinez, 11

3. "I am Burundian, and one delicacy from my culture is Ibitoki, which is a banana dish. It can be fried, cooked into a stew, or cooked on its own."
- Ntiruvakure Dinye, 11

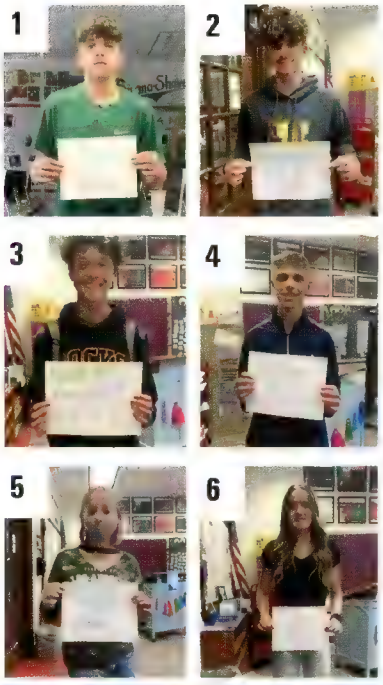
4. "My favorite food are Sambusas. They are basically rice and beef, wrapped up in a triangular shape."
- Anocled Munezero, 10

SIBLING Schedules

School is already chaotic, and there are so many people at school that you don't know. However, when you have a sibling, who you go to school with, you always have one person who helps calm the chaos.

In a school with hundreds of people, it's good to know at least one person. "It makes me feel good knowing I have someone who I can got to if there's ever a problem at school," Marcus McQueen said about his sister, Mariyah McQueen. Just being able to have someone to talk to seems to be the best part of going to school with siblings. "I know I can always have someone to go to when I need a laugh, or quite honestly, a reality check," Mari Churchill said of Alexander Churchill.

Through it all, it's nice to have that one person who can just be your rock at school.



Good Morning, Goodnight

Siblings at the Rock share their differences in their daily schedules.

Sibling vs. Sibling

Marcus McQueen, 10
Basketball

Mariyah McQueen, 12
Basketball

Mari Churchill, 12
Volleyball and Soccer

Alexander Churchill, 10
Baseball and Golf

Josiah Putnam, 9
Baseball

Jayden Putnam, 11
Cross Country and Baseball

AJ's MAKEUP

"I started to play with makeup when I was really little, but at eight years old is when it became a full time hobby for me."

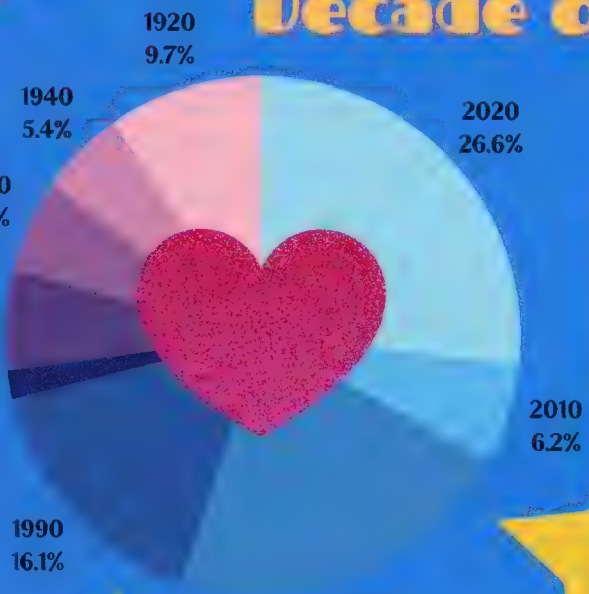
- AJ Stigers

"I plan to get licensed in cosmetology, and eventually, become a medical esthetician. I love doing makeup because it's a new experience every time."

Emma Stout

"When my outfits aren't slaying, my earrings are!"

Students' Favorite Decade of Fashion



Egan Westmorland

"All you need to serve is a couple of dollars and some bedazzle."

I love my sunglasses!

STYLISH STUDENTS

TATS

EMMA JASPER

"My tattoo is actually a matching tattoo with my mom. I knew I wanted to get a matching tattoo with my mom as my first tattoo because she is my best friend, and I know I wouldn't be where I am today without her."

NICHOLAS ADAMS

"I got my tattoo because I wanted to get one that meant a lot to me. It means to prosper, no matter the cards you were drawn. That's my goal, so I got it tatted."

KELSEY BARNETT

"I got my Chucky tattoo on my forearm for my brother, Ashton Brooks. We both love Chucky, and it is our favorite scary movie character. He was so happy when I showed him the tattoo."

the FUNKY FASHION of DELANEY CARROLL

"My style is often inspired by Pinterest! I love shopping at Goodwill, Target, Ragstock, and Abernathy's! My outfits are my own little way of expressing myself, and making myself feel confident!"

HAIR inspo

ALEXIS HAYES

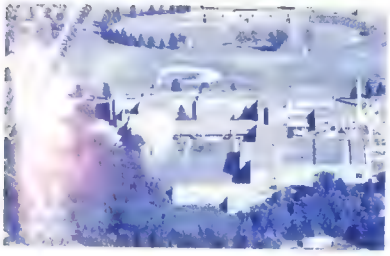
ASPEN HENLEY

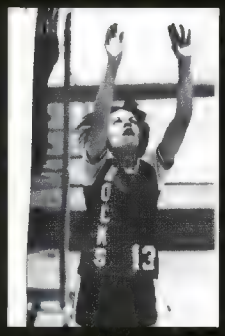
THE TRADITIONS

Rocky Tradition:
Students need a study break.

Rocky Tradition:
Students eagerly await the crowning of the Homecoming Court.

Rocky Tradition:
Highly skilled musicians in choir, band, and orchestra.





Rocky Tradition:
Rocky girls participate in sports- but were limited in their options until 1972.

Rocky Tradition:
Rocky's cheerleaders cheer on the Rocks.

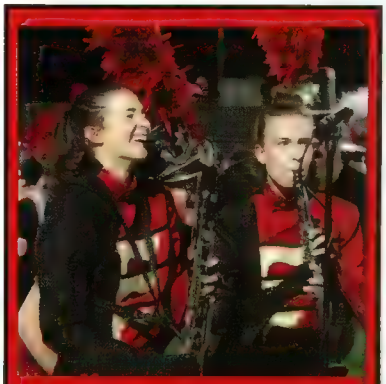
Rocky Tradition:
The Fieldhouse is the place to be on a Friday night- watching the basketball team compete.

CONTINUE

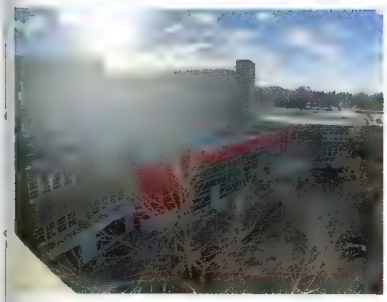
NOW VS. THEN

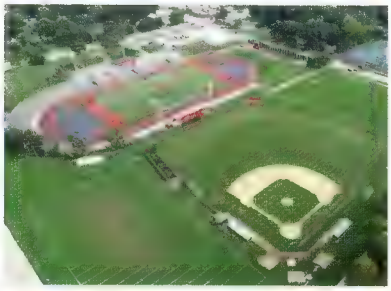
Today:
Yes, high school can still be exhausting.

Today:
Homecoming, especially announcing Court, continues to be a favorite tradition.

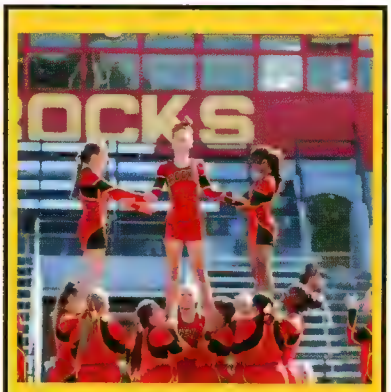


Today:
The Pride of Rock Island Marching Band still draws crowds and keeps them entertained.





Today:
The number of teams and participants in female athletics has increased greatly since the passage of Title 9.



Today:
Rocky's cheerleaders not only get the crowd into the games, but now, perform challenging stunts and compete!

Today:
Basketball, one of the first sports at Rocky, still draws a big crowd on Friday nights.

"For me, AP Art has pushed me to experiment. I've recently tried watercolor, and mixing it with colored pencils, and it's a new thing I do now. It has allowed me to have more conversations about art with my peers, and we get to bounce ideas off each other."

- Chanel Colvin, 12

"AP Art, for me, is a class that allows me to express myself with creative freedom, in which other classes don't allow me to. I appreciate it highly. It grants me the ease that comes with each assignment. I would say this class has pushed me to try harder with coming up with new ideas for our contract cycle."

- Vix Dang, 12

Above, a student works on her contract. Contracts are the artwork that fills the student portfolios.

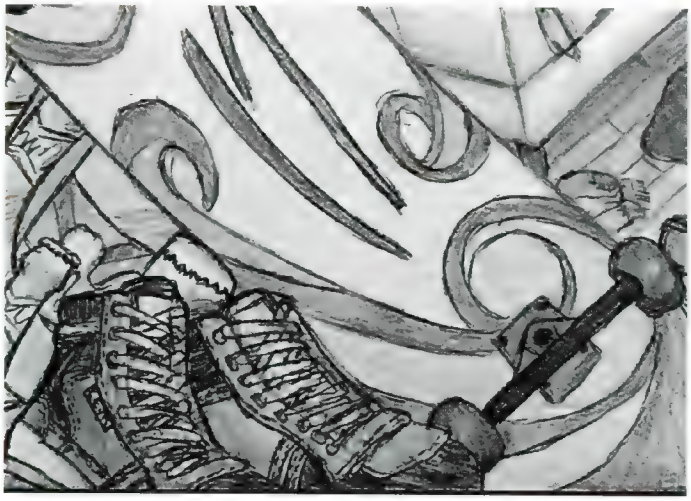
Mixed media is a big part of a portfolio. People use different tools, like colored pencils, acrylic paint, and markers.

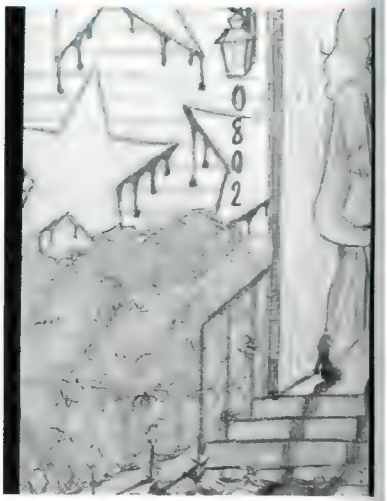
Collaboration is a big part of the class, where students bounce ideas off of each other, and create friendships.

Students improve their skills with sketchbook assignments that push them to experiment with different materials, and expand their range.

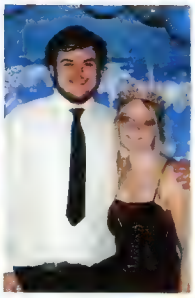
"AP Art is a break from the frantic school day, where I get to relax, and work on art pieces, while I talk to friends. AP Art class has really impacted how I get my work done in a time frame. I can get artwork done a lot faster now."

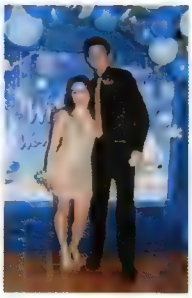
- Julian Anderson, 12

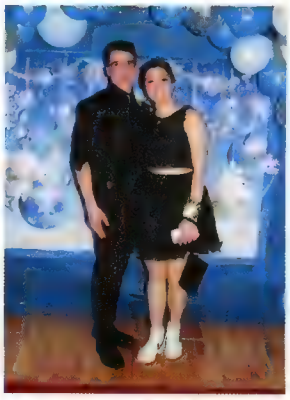


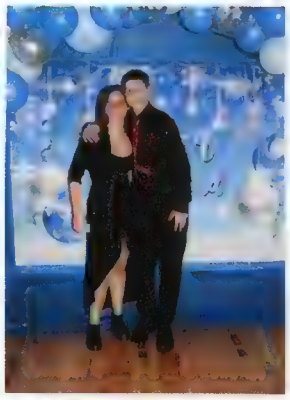


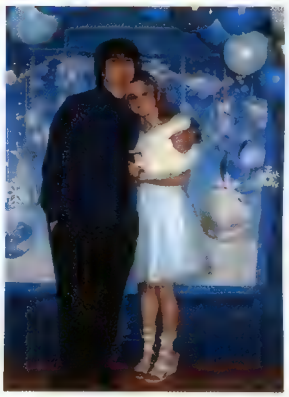
Dancing In A Winter Wonderland



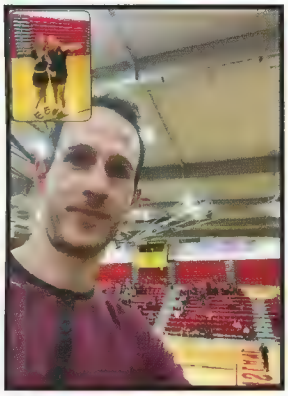
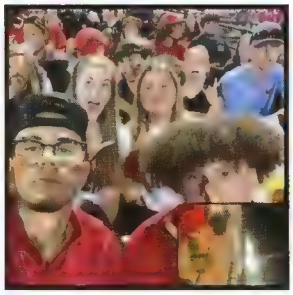


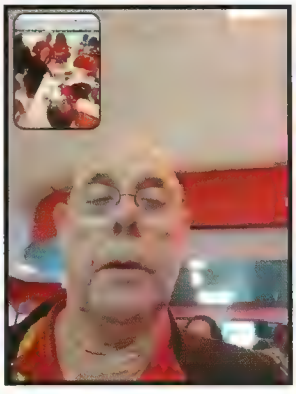
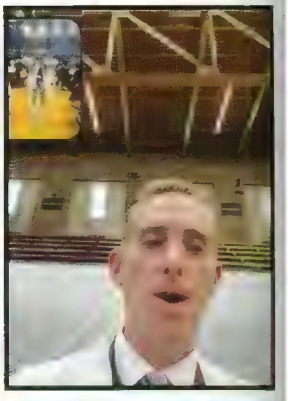


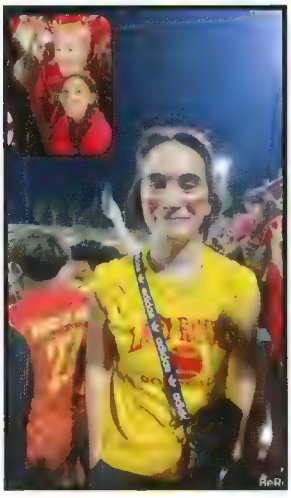
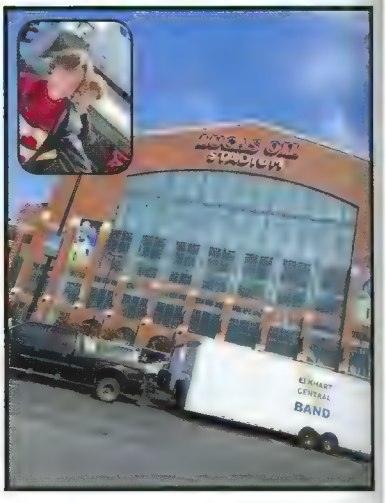


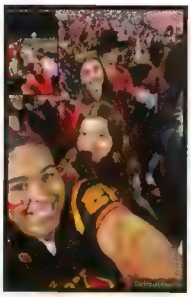
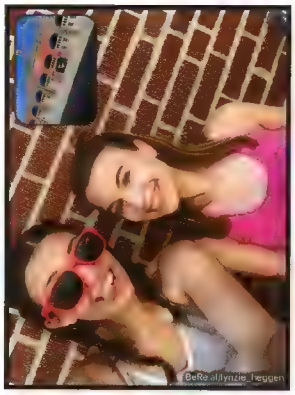


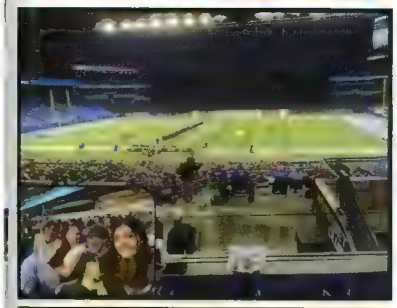
BeReal at Rocky

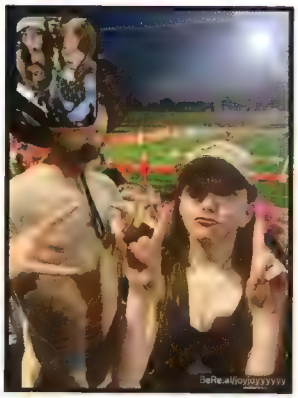



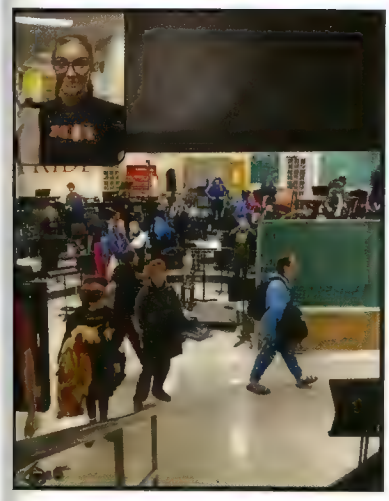
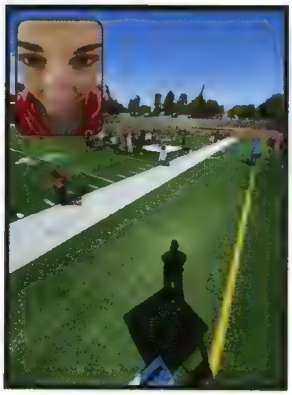
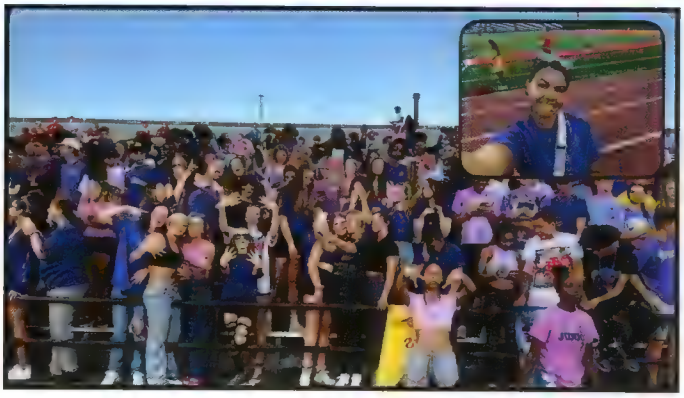



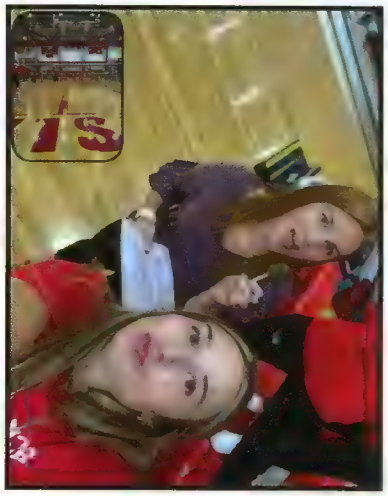







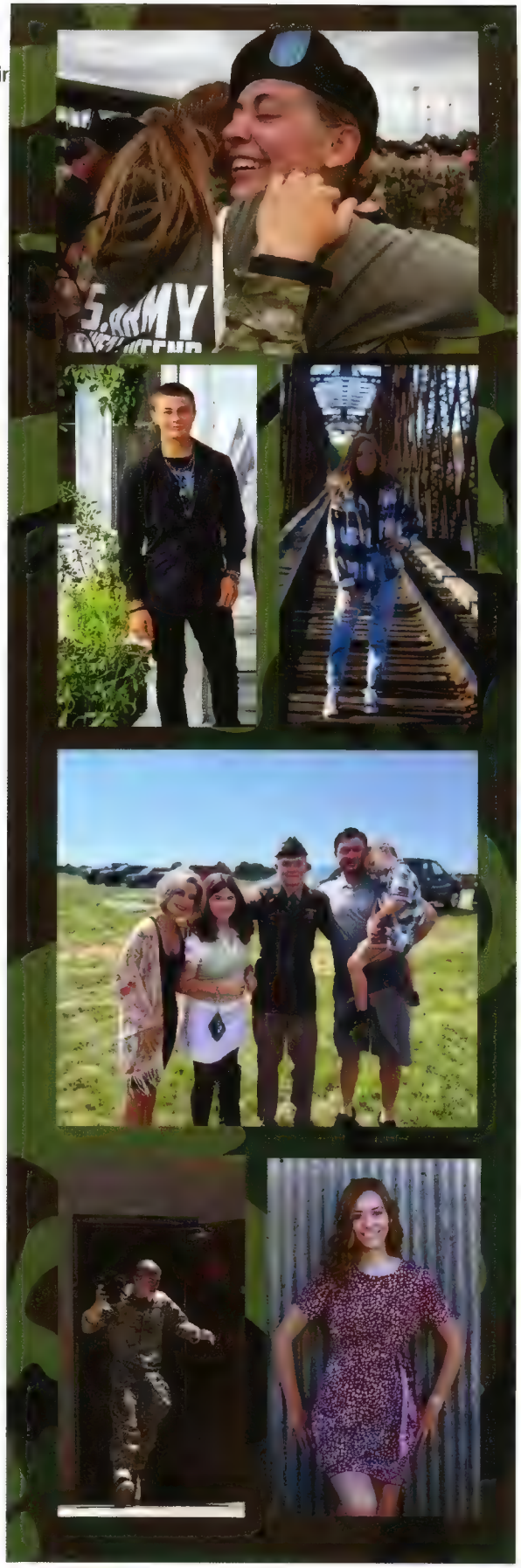


Smiiiiiiile!
Picture Perfect!

While most students slept in all summer, and hung out with their friends, senior, Kaiya McKinley spent her summer at Fort Jackson, South Carolina for Army Basic Combat Training. Kaiya decided to join the Army National Guard, and enlisted in February of 2022. She said her sister inspired her to join, and remarked, "Once I looked into it more, there were a ton of opportunities and benefits, while still being able to take my own path."

While at Basic Training, Kaiya participated in confidence obstacle courses, ruck marches, experienced a gas chamber, rifle marksmanship, physical fitness tests, and practiced throwing hand grenades. For her last graduation requirement, she had to complete The Forge. This training included three nights and two days in a field, a ten mile ruck march, NIC at night (night infiltration course), where they shoot live rounds above your head, while you low crawl through sand for 300 meters, and training classes throughout the day to review everything she learned at Basic.

Overall, Kaiya enjoyed making new friendships, and learning life lessons while at Basic Training, even though, "Some days were a lot harder than others," she explained. After high school, she plans on attending college to earn a degree to be a doctor, while still attending drill one weekend a month for the National Guard, and two weeks in the summer. Kaiya's advice for anyone considering taking the military path is to, "Take the leap of faith. It's definitely worth all of the things you go through."

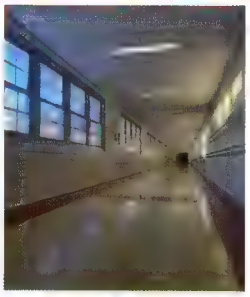


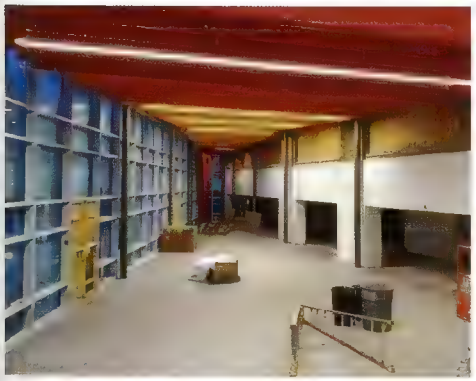
Similarly to Kaiya, Deaken Golz, a senior, spent his summer break attending Army Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Deaken decided to enlist in the Army National Guard in March of 2021, and chose to go into the 31B MOS (military police), and stated he decided to join because, "The benefits and guarantee of a good future through it. It was only after a few months of my enlistment did I realize the character improvement I could take on."

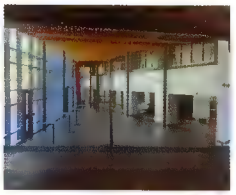
While attending Basic Training, Deaken's favorite event was the end of the 'Red Phase'. "To get out of the Red Phase, you had to complete certain training events. One day, we were doing team building obstacle courses. Another day, we were donning our gas masks in the gas chamber, and another day, we were rappelling off a forty-foot tower. It was the most fun week I've had in my life," he explained. Overall, after his experience, he remarked, "I stand straighter. I'm more confident in myself. I found out what style I like, and what person I want to be. I won't stop, won't stop, and know where I want to go in life."

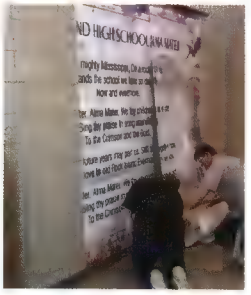
After high school, he plans on going back to Fort Leonard Wood to complete the last ten weeks of training. After that, he will attend his monthly weekend, while deciding whether to go active duty or attend college for journalism and editing. Deaken's advice for anyone considering the military is to just do it, or look further into it. He stated, "It does teach you how to be better than the person you are, and you will make lifelong friendships, as well as memories."

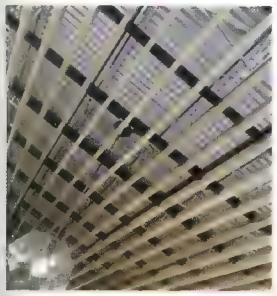
REBUILDING ROCKY











"I'm glad the project is nearing completion because I will be happy to have our big library back, after 8 months in our compressed library space. I'm looking forward to having space for students and staff, and to having classes back in the library. As for the firewall, it is a highly technical and complicated process to build, and there is much more to the inside of the wall than what you can see on the outside. I'm glad that the school and district are following fire code in building projects, as our highest priority should be the safety of our students. It does affect the layout of the library, so Mrs. Curtiss and I are brainstorming ways to use the space differently, now that the large room is divided into two halves."
- Mrs. Mendelin, Librarian

BEFORE AND AFTER

Rocky's New 2023 Addition

English, Justice 53
Ennis, Lola 53
Ericson, Bryce 53
Erodiance, Presence 21
Erps, Jayden 37
Escamilla, Cruz 53, 77
Escamilla-Garcia, Maria 21
Espinosa, Paige 53, 55, 111, 138, 139, 171
Esposito, Alaina 21, 23, 31, 106, 107, 143, 157, 173, 175, 176, 178, 179
Essman, Eva 21, 30, 31, 102, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 120, 130, 173, 174, 175, 178, 179, 191
Everson, Jersey 53, 75, 110, 111
Eves, Caitlin 6, 56
Eygabroad, Dominic 53

F

Fabian, Jullian 6
Fabiola, Murebereza 37
Faison, Nevaeh 21
Famiya, Luundo 37
Faqiri, Aria 53
Faqiri, Shoaib 53
Farmer, Daryl 21
Farrance, Joshua 37, 42, 45, 75, 110, 141, 175, 179
Farrence, Mackenzie 21, 157
Farrow, Keyonte 37, 42, 75, 79
Faulkner, Kaleb 37
Feigley, Lucette 21, 47, 118, 120, 121, 130, 135, 146, 147, 193
Feigley, Quinn 1, 46, 53, 58, 59, 63, 134, 138, 139, 148, 151, 170, 171, 193
Fentress, Michael 53
Ferguson, Travonna 37, 132
Ferkel, Evan 21
Fiers, Aidan 6, 117, 118, 138, 139, 150, 170, 175
Figgs, Cameron 6, 74, 75, 100, 101, 176
Figueroa-Salinas, Noemi 37, 133
Fikiri, Riziki 53
Fineran, Camryn 53
Fineran, Meara 21
Firrell, Keelie 53
Fiston, Niyogushima 21, 25
Flactiff, Avery 21, 75, 79, 113
Florence, Davontae 37
Flosi, Holden 47, 51, 54, 96, 145, 170
Flowers, Karimah 21
Fonteyne, Nolan 54
Ford, Honor 21, 107, 170, 173, 176
Ford, La'Rontae 37
Foreman, Catriell 54
Foster, Kale 37
Franco, Helen 54
Frantz, Aiden 21, 113
Frantz, Dylan 1, 37, 38, 108, 109, 126, 173, 174
Frantz, Kasee 54
Frazier, Ly'Ida 54
Freeman, Kendrick 6
Fry, Mason 54, 88
Funches, Ladavia 54

G

Gadlin, Zamaria 54
Gahimbare, Alexis 37
Galbraith, Colin 37
Galeana, Joshua 21
Gallardo, David 37
Gallina, Ava 54
Gant, Lauren 6, 10, 126, 127, 130, 142, 143, 170, 171, 192
Ganza, Aimable 37
Gaona, Julian 21
Garcia, Diana 7, 10
Garcia, Edmund 7, 74, 75
Garcia, Estevan 21
Garcia, Isaiah 37
Garcia, Jose 54
Garcia, Maricela 54
Garcia, Natalia 21, 80, 81
Garcia-Gallegos, Andrea 34, 37, 47, 135, 146, 147
Gardner, Avianna 37
Gardner, Jaylin 37
Garrard, VJay 37, 75, 141
Garrett, Tatum 7
Garrison, Caden 7
Garro, Griffin 54, 98, 99, 103, 158, 159
Garza, Sophia 54
Garza, Xavior 21
Gasper, Gavin 21, 96
Gasper, Jade 18, 21, 75, 101, 108, 109, 110, 111, 119, 142, 143, 173, 174, 175, 179
Gay, Alayna 54
Gay, Amine 54
Gay, Angelo 22
Gay, Eh 7, 97
Gay, Kameron 7
Gay, Kershaun 7
Gay, Nay Ler 7
Gay, Nekeyhl 7
Gay, Tevin 7
Gean, Drake 22
George, Nevaeh 54
Gerald, Mizero 7
Gidaszewski, Millie 51, 53, 54, 63, 128, 129, 151, 170, 193
Gillen, Jordohn 37
Gilliland, Braden 54
Gilmore, Essence 37
Gimzo, Donald 54, 156
Gisobizo, Oliver 37
Give, For 7
Glaski, Aiden 37
Goeh, Benjamin 37, 96, 97, 101, 173
Golz, Deaken 4, 194
Gomez, Abraham 54
Gomez, Isaac 54
Gomez, Matteo 54, 63, 96
Gonzalez, Gabriella 18, 22, 112
Goodwin, Conner 54
Gorney, Brayden 37
Gottcent, Lauren 1, 37, 47, 130, 136, 140, 151, 152, 154, 155
Gottcent, Nathaniel 1, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 84, 85, 126, 127, 130, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 161, 170, 171, 192, 193
Govain, Amiyah 22
Grady, Dar'Terius 22
Graham, Shanyah 7
Grandberry, Gabrielle 22
Grant, Bradley 37, 89
Grant, Lauren 142
Gratien, Gaheta 37, 141
Graves, Nayeli 22, 175
Gray, Dillon 22
Gray, Morgan 107
Gray, Riley 37, 112
Gray, Yai'Nejazisha 54
Greenwood, Madelynn 54
Greenwood, Madison 7, 124, 125, 145
Gregory, Justice 22
Griffin, Elizabeth 37, 200
Griffith, La'Mark 22
Groene, Lauren 1, 21, 22, 27, 126, 127, 138, 139
Gruner, Haley 22, 170, 191
Grypp, Alex 37
Grypp, Brett 54
Gunashev, Madjid 22
Gunasheva, Tamina 54
Gunasheva, Vaida 7
Gustafson, Corbin 7
Gustafson, Eli 18, 22, 146, 147
Gustafson, Luke 22, 79
Gutierrez, Connie 7, 10, 122, 123
Gutierrez, Isaiah 22
Guy, Noah 38
Guyette, Francesca 54, 60, 108
Guzman, Emilio 54
Guzman-Martinez, Hector 54

H

Hadley, Chase 38, 89
Haley, Malaya 38, 171
Hall, Akyla 38, 130, 141
Hall, Nyasia 54
Hamburg, Trevor 54
Hamilton, Korde 101
Hamilton, Landon 7
Hamilton, Marvin 54
Hamilton, Marvion 54
Hamilton, Nina 1, 3, 7, 10, 15, 126, 175, 176, 177, 192
Hampsey, Trace 55
Hampton, Brennan 7, 118, 138, 139, 150, 151, 152, 154, 155, 170, 173
Hampton, Sanaa 22
Hampton, Secret 7
Hampton, William 51, 55, 58, 144, 146, 170
Hansen, Ella 7, 14, 46, 130, 135, 138, 139, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151, 152, 153, 170, 172, 173, 189, 192, 193
Hansen, Lucas 7, 116
Hansen, Owen 22, 25, 31, 111, 149, 167, 175, 179, 193
Hansen, Taleigha 7, 10
Hansen, Tyler 78
Hansen, Zachary 55, 135, 144, 146, 147
Hanson, Avery 55, 110, 111
Hantz, Eric 22
Harker, Andrew 7
Harker, Logan 38
Harl, Mason 55
Harmon, Chloe 1, 38, 41, 44, 92, 122, 123, 126, 127, 130, 141, 174
Harms, Olivia 51, 53, 54, 55, 63, 170
Harrell, Kendall 55
Harrell, Kiley 7, 14, 187
Harris, Londyn 55
Harris-Jackson, Nevaeh 55
Harrison, Shawn 7
Harvey, Aspen 7, 126, 187
Harvey, Tyler 55
Hassan, Zafirah 22, 140, 154, 155
Hassan, Zaynah 55, 151, 155, 193
Hatem, Ali 7
Hatem, Hassan 20, 22
Hathaway, Grace 38, 130
Hauskins, Daniel 35, 38, 46, 133, 151, 153, 154, 155, 175, 179, 193
Hauskins, Gale 7, 151, 155
Hawotte, Reagan 38, 45, 114, 115, 160, 174, 175, 179, 193
Hawotte, Riley 7, 119, 144, 145, 148, 171
Hayes, Alexis 20, 22, 187
Hayes, Lillian 22, 115
Hayes, Madelynn 22, 108, 109, 163, 174
Hays, Michael 22
He, Ku Say 22
Hearn, DeMarco 7, 31
Hearn, Jarius 55
Hecker, Bailey 7, 14, 92, 114, 115, 122, 123
Heggen, Lynzie 7, 10, 11, 13, 92, 93, 144, 145, 148, 147, 171, 189, 192, 193
Heine, Lukas 38, 56, 90, 98, 99, 102, 104, 105
Helms, Emma 55
Hemphill-Salaverria, Maximilian 55
Henderson, Aidan 8, 14, 15, 126, 127
Henderson, Joslynn 35, 38, 132, 162
Henderson, Nihyeva 8
Hendrickx, Nathan 8, 47, 84, 85, 113
Henry, Rayna 38, 141
Herington, Faith 38
Hewitt-Bolden, Mahiela 4, 8, 14, 123, 174
Hiatt, Cheyan 55
Hickman, Colby 55, 101
Hicks, Courtellus 22
Higgins, Ja'Marius 22
Hill, Aiden 38
Hill, Kamiya 38
Hinton, Bee 23, 26, 151, 153, 173
Hixon, Mia 130, 174, 192, 193
Hobert, Roxanne 23, 163, 192
Hodgett, Elijah 55
Hodonou, Andrea 8
Hodonou, Grace 38, 129, 130, 141
Hodonou, Raphaella 55
Hoeppner, Scarlett 31, 55, 102, 104, 105, 191
Holland, John 23
Holliday, Spencer 8
Hollon, Keylee 55
Holmes, Frank 8, 158, 159
Holtan, Ryan 8
Honeycutt, Thomas 23, 31, 89, 175, 176, 177, 179, 192, 193
Hooks, Jambrea 8
Horne, Naasir 55, 77, 101
Horne, O-Mirrah 23, 80, 81, 175
Horskins, Isaiah 38
Horton, Karsen 38
Horton, Olivia 157, 192
Hoteling, Louis 38
Houk, Stella 35, 38, 130, 136, 155
Hounkpati, Jessamine 23, 121
Houston, Jamariona 23
Houston, McKenzie 8, 132
Houston, Sentavious 55
Houston, TJ 23
Howard, Darien 38
Howard, Gabriella 23, 92, 161, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179, 193
Howell, Francis 79
Howser, Timothy (Blake) 38, 113
Hsee, Wah 23
Htoo, Baw 8
Htoo, Dah Gay 23, 31, 137
Htoo, Hae Peh 23, 142
Htoo, John 55
Htoo, Lay 8
Htoo, Moo Gay 38
Htoo, Nelson 55, 57
Htoo, New Year 8
Htoo, Ni Tha Blay 55, 133
Htoo, November 8
Htoo, Paw She 8
Htoo, Samuel 55
Htoo, Say 23
Htoo, Ywa Tar Hay 35, 38, 130, 131
Hudnall, Mallory 55, 62, 63, 81, 94, 95
Hudson, Jaydon 23
Hudson, Temar 55, 77, 87
Huff, Austin 23
Hughes, Anastacia 55
Hughes, Kyleigh 8, 9, 10, 126, 174
Huisman, Benjamin 38, 130, 144, 146, 147, 193
Hummel, MJ 1, 21, 22, 27, 30, 126, 148, 163
Hunter, Aryanna 23
Hunter, Nevaeh 38

I

Ibarra Valencia, Joselin 38, 141
Ibrahim, Jospin 38
Ignatius, Emily 55
Irakoze, Bernice 55, 56, 86
Isom, Octavis 8
Itabelo, Oliver 38
Iteriteka, BienVenue 55

J

Jabbah, Bless 52, 55, 56
Jabbah, Derrick 23
Jackson, Alexander 1, 23, 26, 30, 113, 130, 135, 144, 146, 147, 148, 170, 192
Jackson, Amyah 38, 80, 81, 141
Jackson, Daniel 23
Jackson, Dezmund 23, 31, 100, 101
Jackson, Elisha 23
Jackson, Havionna 38
Jackson, Ki'Leyah 38
Jackson, Lamerian 8, 46
Jackson, Mark 23, 26, 31, 78, 79, 113, 130, 135, 145, 147, 170, 193
Jackson, Marnaysha 23
Jackson, Mukuta 55
Jackson, Nadiya 38
Jackson, Sean-Anthony 23, 113
Jacobs, Hailey 55
Jacoby, Kaitlyn 23, 46, 152, 154, 155, 191
James, Dominic 23
James, Dylan 4, 8, 172
James, Gracie 56, 114, 115
James, Hannah 38
Jamison, Andre 39
Jamison, Ta'Miah 8, 80, 81
Jamison, Terrianna 23, 80, 81
Janssen, Niklaus 8
Jaramillo, Jose 24
Jared, Ashton 56
Jared, Chase 56
Jared, Tryston 24
Jasper, Emma 8, 11, 15, 131, 171, 187
Jeanine, Zawadi 24
Jeanvier, Niyitunga 8, 172
Jett-Ryan, Alyce 3, 8, 137, 177
Jimenez, Alexandro 56
Jimenez, Julian 24
Jimenez, Mateo 24
Jimenez, Yaretzi 47, 51, 53, 56, 63, 106, 170, 175
Johnson, Alyvia 56, 106
Johnson, Birdie 1, 39, 126
Johnson, Dasarae 56
Johnson, Dashawn 39
Johnson, Dorian 24
Johnson, Kaylee 8, 10
Johnson, Mahogani 24
Johnson, Sa'Coriana 56
Johnson, Zada 56, 135
Johnson, Zane 39, 141
Johnson, Zeppelin 39
Johnson-Scriver, Caydence 39, 151
Johnston, Brady 24
Jolie, Eliza 39
Jones, Aunah 39
Jones, Devyn 24
Jones, Emmah 56, 145
Jones, Jada 24
Jones, J'lynn 56
Jones, Joshua 56, 101
Jones, Kaitlyn 24
Jones, Riley 8, 136, 143
Jones, Tamia 56
Justin, Mpawenimana 39

K

Kagee, Janelle 7, 8
Kalonda, Deborah 24
Kargl, Olivia 31, 39, 102, 103, 104, 105
Karimu, Kizumgu 8
Karzin, Kaiden 8
Keen, Mary 8
Keever, Noah 167
Kelley, Dajanique 24
Kelley, Harrison 39, 47, 79, 146, 147, 193
Kelley, Jessa 39
Kelley, Matthias 56
Kelly, Alonzo 56
Kenasi, Itabelo 39
Kennedy, Jeremiah 24
Kennedy, Nehemiah 24
Kern, Jacob 8, 113
Kerno, Andrew 24
Kerr, Jozie 39, 92, 94, 95, 111, 173, 174, 175, 192
Keya, Fatuma 56
Khalaqi, Fayaz 39
Khalaqi, Karshma 8
Khalaqi, Zamir 8
Khu, Di 8, 14, 96, 97
King, Lillian 39, 58, 145
King, Nyx 37, 39, 46, 138, 139, 151, 152, 154, 155, 173
King, Srinity 56
Kirk, Hailey 24
Kirk, Honesty 56
Kirzeder, Brayden 39
Kitterman, Jenna 51, 56, 148
Kitterman, Joy 24, 27, 136, 137, 151, 152, 153, 193
Kitterman, Leah 31, 39, 82, 83, 175
Kizungu, Arafati 8
Kizungu, Asta 39
Kizungu, Kessy 56
Klapperich, Owen 56
Klossing, Coltin 39
Knight, Stanasia 57
Knight, Stantrel 24
Kopplin, Leo 24, 84
Kososki, Joseph 39
Kowalik, Austin 8
Kpaw, Hsa Hsee 24
Kpor, Klae 8
Kress, Alaina 24, 92
Kress, Madelyn 22, 24, 28, 126, 163
Krup, Kaydon 24
K'Toce Soe, Mu Phlay 39, 184
Ku, Eh Kaw 24, 96
Kutzman, Kaitlyn 39, 193

L

La, Hser Mu 39
Lacey, Aiyanna 8
LaMay, Chad 24
Lambert-Lannen, Isaiah 8
LaMonte, Kyle 18, 24, 100, 101
Lankford, Tavien 24
Lannen, Aiden 39
Lannen, Jolena 39
Larsen, Jocelyn 8
Laster, Lani 24, 173, 176
Latcham, Connor 39
Laud, Haleigh 51, 57, 58, 59, 63, 111, 129
Lawver-Andrews, Landon 24
Lawver-Andrews, Lennon 24
Leahy, Daniella 52, 56, 57, 60, 62, 81, 175
Lee, JaMarrie 57
Lee, JaTaya 24, 175
Lee, Ja'Tia 39, 175
Lee, Jaydah 8
Lee, Nathan 8
Lei, Sell 51, 57, 63, 156, 170
Leihsing, Robert 57
LeMaster, Carly 24, 46, 139, 140, 152, 154, 155
Lemmon, Kaleigha 57
Lensing, Mason 24
Leon, Agelix 57
Leos-Ochoa, Yessenia 39, 151, 153, 154
Lessard, Damian 38, 39
Let, Su Su 57
LeVan, Collin 57
Levan, Riley 24, 26, 31, 47, 106, 107, 111, 146, 147, 148, 160, 175, 176, 192, 193
Lewis, Devell 57, 77, 101
Lewis, Swaveontae 57
Lewis, Tavarias 39
Lewis, Tramond 57
Lewis-Glass, Lakevion 25
Leya, Ntiebuwaya 9, 164, 165
Lieber, Abbagale 32, 33, 39, 106, 130, 175
Lims, Jonge 39
Lindsey, Caleb 25, 151, 156
Linton, Elijah 57
Lioen, Kalai 39
Lionel, Niyubuntu 9
Lipe, Alexandria 9, 58, 146
Littlejohn, Kylee 57
Lloyd, Alex 25
Lonergan-Shinskia, A'rion 40, 92, 106, 130, 191
Long, Audrey 57, 148, 170
Long, Kaitlyn 40
Long, Quinton 57
Long, Richard 40, 141
Lopez, Jazmin 7, 9, 124, 125, 145, 148
Lopez, Jessica 40
Lopez, Juan 25, 31, 96
Lopez, Juanita 9, 40
Lopez, Julian 25
Lopez, Natalie 40
Lopez, Rafael 9, 11, 96, 97, 137
Lopez Favela, Ninel 9, 144
Love, Hudson 25, 118

Lowry, Bryce 9, 10, 15, 149, 172
Lowry, Drake 9, 158
Lubembela, Bahati 25
Lucio, Daisy 1, 40, 126
Lucio, Sage 57
Luebbers, Jack 57
Lundquist, Savannah 5, 9, 10
Lwebula, Mwabo 25
Lydon, Jaxson 40
Lyon, Evan 9, 15, 118, 138, 139, 170

M

Maess, Emily 25, 108, 109, 173
Maess, Rebecca 31, 57, 102, 103, 104, 105
Mahdi, Aseel 25
Mahn, Asa 25, 56, 91, 98, 99, 104, 105, 130, 175, 179, 185
Mahn, Gabriel 47, 56, 57, 98, 99, 101, 104, 105, 135, 185
Maidak, Madelyn 7, 9, 12, 58, 102, 104, 105, 131, 146, 147, 156
Majaliwa, Juliene 57
Maloney, Harper 40
Malual, Ayen 9
Malual, Leek 40
Man, Niang 9
Manary, Dax 57
Manary, Sean 25, 46
Maniragaba, Joseph 57
Maombi, Kennedy 9
Maombi, Ogiste 25
Mapes, Alida 57
Marceleno, Daniel 57
Marceleno, Isabella 40
Marceleno, Manuel 25
Marceleno, Yadier 40
Marceleno-Robles, Hector 9
Marisiyana, Mupaji 57
Marquez, Andrew 87, 88
Marquez, Steven 9, 75, 86, 87, 88
Mars, Merrell 57, 136
Marshall, Brayden 25, 31, 101
Marshall, Eian 9, 87
Martel, Jenavieve 9, 10, 137
Martin, Alicia 51, 58, 63, 170
Martin, Avante 25
Martin, Dylan 9, 78
Martin, Jillian 40
Martin, Matthew 40
Martin, Toshanne 25
Martin, Xylynn 40, 44, 58, 146, 151
Martinez, Eliana 25
Martinez, Noe 25
Martinez, Yazmyne 58
Mass, Henry 58, 98, 99, 104
Massie, Alexa 58
Massie, Aubrey 50, 58, 106
Maston, Kylee 25
Mata, Kyle 9
Mathews, Kayla 40
Mathews, Keller 1, 6, 9, 59, 84, 130, 144, 145, 146, 147, 170, 171, 172, 192, 193
Matias, Almir 25, 31, 118
Matthews, Arianna 3, 120, 121, 177
Mau, Hunter 38, 40
Maung, Chit 26
Maxey, Gillian 26, 156
Maxey, Madalynn 4, 9, 136, 156
Mayares, Julyan 58
Mayares, Kevin 40
McAdams, LaShaya 9
McCall, Lucas 51, 56, 58, 98, 99, 104, 170, 191
McCall, Zachary 21, 26, 29
McCaw, Dai Shaun 40, 91
McCaw, Nadia 26
McClay, Alexis 9, 46, 138, 139, 170, 171
McClay, Jaelyn 58, 110, 175, 179
McConchie, Alice 40, 151, 191
McConchie, Isaac 58
McConchie, Leia 26
McCoy, Elizabeth 1, 23, 32, 33, 36, 40, 92, 106, 126, 127, 130, 140, 174, 192, 193
McCrady, Abie 9, 58, 146
McCray, Jermariona 58
McCray Brown, Laticia 26, 108, 109, 110, 111, 174, 175, 179
McDaniel, Lillian 40, 45, 92, 94, 95, 173, 193
McDaniel, Sullivan 9
McDowell, Joshua 9
McDuffy, Coryon 58
McDuffy, Kamya 40, 81, 120
McFate, Shannon 26
McGhee, Daniel 26, 86, 87, 88
McGowan, Ian 58, 88
McGowan, Israel 9
McKillip, Kade 26, 118, 170
McKinley, Alayna 26, 82, 83, 130, 157, 176
McKinley, Kaiya 5, 9, 14, 15, 108, 109, 126, 130, 157, 160, 161, 171, 173, 174, 193, 194
McKinney, Alec 26
McManus, Maddix 40, 46
McMeekan, Noah 9
McMullen, Lonnie 58
McNanna, Bella 40
McNanna, Cain 26
McNanna, Emma 40
McNeal, Jaleeyah 40
McNeal, Jamalaki 40, 117
McNeal, June 58
McQuay, Nevaeh 40, 108, 109, 174
McQueen, Marcus 40, 100, 101, 185, 192, 193
McQueen, Mariyah 3, 6, 9, 10, 14, 18, 31, 80, 81, 101, 111, 126, 127, 160, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 177, 178, 185, 192, 193
McRae, Elijah 26
McRae, Isaiah 58, 101
McVay, Maliyah 40
Meade, Jack 58
Medrano, Angeliq 9, 15, 171, 174, 178
Medrano, Viridiana 58
Medrano, Yazmin 175
Medrano-Mendoza, Carlos 40
Meirhaeghe, Mackenzie 9, 14, 15, 31, 56, 80, 81, 98, 99, 102, 103, 104, 105, 120, 121, 126, 130, 195
Mejia, Kyleigha 40
Melchi, Kylie 24, 31, 37, 40, 47, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 120, 121, 130, 134, 135, 140, 193
Mendenhall, Marcy 149
Mendoza, Karina 40
Merkwan-Bennett, Kayloh 9
Merrill, Amiya 41
Merritt, Marcel 41
Meza-Pena, Montzerrat 9, 82, 127, 143, 171, 178
Michaels, Owen 26, 31, 78, 79, 89
Middlebrook, Navaeh 9, 120
Mikaio, Sienna 9, 106, 107, 142, 143
Mildren, Abigayle 41
Mildren, Gabrielle 41, 192
Milefchik, Camryn 9, 10, 13, 15, 108, 109, 161, 174, 193
Millbrook, Michael 58
Miller, Aviana 58
Miller, Kassandra 9, 47, 138, 139, 154, 155
Miller, LaJaden 9
Miller, Rilen 41
Mills, Abby 9, 157
Mills, Bruce 41
Mills, Gianna 41
Mills, Isabella 58, 134, 140, 155
Mirzai, Namira 41
Mitchell, Jaydah 58
Mitchell, Kylan 58, 191
Mitchell, Michael 1, 24, 126, 195
Mitchell, Olivia 10
Mitchell, Shyaunna 10, 164, 165
Mkambilwa, Lumumba 26
Mlekush, Ella 26, 27, 29, 134, 163, 171
Moa, Nova 58
Mooding, Kaden 10, 167
Mohammadi, Abdul 41
Mohammadi, Marhaba 41
Mohammadi, Mohammad 58
Mohammadi, Tawfiq 41
Mojica, Angelo 58
Moline, Justin 41
Montanez, Asahela 26
Montoya-Hernandez, Jose 41
Moo, Bu 58
Moo, Eh Kler 26, 96
Moo, Hser Ner 10
Moo, Ka 58
Moo, Ku Ku 41, 47
Moo, Lah Set Kpru 26, 82, 121
Moo, Shee Ler 58, 138, 139
Moo, Ta Ear Paw 26
Moo, Taw 26, 47
Moore, Caden 41, 47, 135, 147
Moore, Calvin 58, 96
Moore, Evan 58
Moore, Logan 10
Moore, Shalom 26, 47, 126, 127, 135, 147, 149, 151
Morales, Julian 26
Morales, Sirenity 24, 26, 137
Moran, Kalista 58
Moravetz, Tobi 41
Moreno, Anthony 58
Moreno, Dustin 7, 10, 149, 167
Morgan, Ja'Unique 41
Morning, Paris 10
Morris, Jaron 10, 97
Morris, Logan 10, 97
Morris, William 26
Morrison, Maddix 41
Morrison, Markell 10
Moseley, Brayden 26, 118
Mowery, Mariah 26
Mumma, Amanda 25, 26, 31, 106, 107, 173, 176
Mumma, Eric 58, 151
Munezeru, Anocled 38, 41, 165, 173, 184
Munson, Kyleigh 26
Murebereza, Fabiola 165
Murillo-Mendoza, Dulce 41
Murray, Jaliyah 41
Murray, Jordan 10, 14
Musafiri, Bernard 41
Muskeyvalley, Rashaad 26
Mustafa, Thereza 51, 58, 162
Mwanuka, Masudi 41
Myers, Emily 10, 13

N

Nadeau, Elijah 41
Nadeau, Jaden 26
Naing, Easter 51, 56, 58, 63, 145, 170
Naing, September 41, 43, 46, 119, 173
Natani, Matendo 58
Ndarama, Isack 26
Ndayishimiye, Abia 52, 56
Nduwimana, Sandrine 26
Neal, J'Zaeya 26
Neaveill, Jaydan 26
Nebinger, Melanie 27
Neema, Mwamini 58
Nees, Baila 58
Neff, Gavin 58
Nelson, Alexis 41, 110
Nelson, Cooper 10
Nelson, Gavin 41
Nelson, Landyn 41
Nelson, Nyla 10
Nephew, Derrius 10
Nephew, LaDerricka 27, 127, 142
Nesseler, Jackson 58, 170
Nesseler, Molly 10, 131, 190
Nettles, Aaron 10
Nettles, Imari 58
Nevarez, Olivia 58, 157
Neville, Emmanuel 41, 141
New, Christer 55, 57, 59, 144, 146
Newberry, Cody 59
Nicholson, Alesia 27
Niemi, Andrew 59, 156
Nieto, Carla 41
Ninahazwhe, Nellie 14, 150, 160, 164, 165
Nipper, Hope 41
Nissen, Jayce 59
Nixon, Jake 59
Niyogusenga, Aline 10, 14, 161, 162, 165
Niyogushima, Fiston 75
Niyomwungere, Eric 41
Niyonkuru, Samuel 10, 86, 87, 98, 99
Niyonzima, Ezekiel 59
Niyonzima, Niyonzima 41
Nocentelli, Angelina 41, 46, 47, 129, 133, 136, 151, 184
Nolan, Ella 5, 10, 15
Nombre, Kyle 41
Nooristani, Gul Naz 59
Nooristani, Mohammad 42
Noya, Fedora 59, 83
Ntiebuwayo, Leya 165
Ntinyegezwa, Aidan 97
Nuam, Man 27, 30, 82
Nunn, Isiah 27, 74
Nunn, Morris 1, 34, 42, 106, 111, 130, 175, 179, 192, 193
Nyasa, Suzana 10
Nyassa, Machozi 42
Nyinawabavuna, Queen 27

O

Obedi, Olivier 59
O'Brien, Emily 42, 82, 136, 140, 151, 152
O'Brien, Faith 27
O'Hern-Maidak, Claire 59, 106
Ojeda, Alexandra 59
Oliver, Andrew 59, 116, 117
Oliver, Benjamin 1, 7, 10, 15, 118, 166, 167
Olivier, Larry 27, 100, 101
Olson, Madeline 59
Osborn, Jake 42, 79, 101
Otten, Jackson 59
Overton, Amare 27, 74, 75, 86, 87, 88
Owens, Abigail 42
Owens, Daniel 59
Owens, Kaylee 59
Owens, Makiyla 27, 142

P

Padilla, Cecilia 27, 75, 108, 110, 111
Panick, Dylan 42, 156
Pannell, Addison 59
Pantoja, Alejandro 10
Perhar, Marwa 10
Parr, Abbigail 27, 47, 124, 125, 135, 144, 147, 148
Parrish, Chance 59, 77
Parrow, Domonique 42
Patrick, Wyatt 59
Pattison, Kale 59
Paw, Cristee 10, 137, 184
Paw, Eh Ksaw 27
Paw, Eh Say 27
Paw, Hsa Klee 10
Paw, Ka 27
Paw, Lah Hser 27, 131, 148
Paw, Naw K'Lu 59
Paw, Poe 42, 130
Payne, Dynetta 10
Payney, Harley 42
Payton, Kaelem 27
Payton, Michael 59
Pearson, Christian 42, 141
Pearson, Jamie 27, 150
Pedigo, Taylor 59
Pedraza, Nevaeh 27
Peniston, Daysia 10
Penn, Emma 27, 101, 175, 193
Perez, Alexis 59
Perez, Ely 27
Perez, Esteban 27
Perez, Gladys 42
Perez, Isaac 59, 112, 134, 138, 139, 157, 160, 171
Perez, Jacob 59, 89
Perez, Lincoln 59, 110, 111
Perez, Maria 10
Perez Morales, Juana 42, 130
Perez-Vazquez, Jannet 10
Perion, Grayson 42, 130, 171
Perkins, Emily 59, 111, 193
Perkins, Terrace 27
Pet, Ni 59
Pettis, Keianna 42
Phares, Grace 10, 15
Phares, Lily 130, 135
Phares, Zee 42
Phillips, Jaysha 10
Plohr, Kaylee 10, 130, 142, 144, 145, 148, 170, 171, 173, 192, 193
Poe, Eh Eh 42, 126, 127, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 162, 171, 200
Pohl, Hope 47, 55, 59, 135
Polanco-Guzman, Brian 42, 141
Pollard, S'Nya 42
Pore, Atife 59
Porter, Riley 27, 156, 191
Pothoven, Natalie 1, 6, 10, 130, 135, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148
Poulos, Brandon 11, 13
Powers-Hodges, Jasmine 59
Prather, Brayden 59
Pressly, Charlea 9, 11
Puckett, Alphonso 31, 193
Pugh-Childs, Rickiyla 27
Pulfrey, Eva 11
Pulliam, Charisma 59
Putnam, Jayden 24, 27, 56, 78, 79, 98, 99, 104, 105, 185, 191
Putnam, Josiah 24, 59, 110, 175, 179, 185, 191
Pwe, Nee 11, 14, 143

Q

Qubadi, Fazila 59
Qubadi, Hangama 42
Qubadi, Samir 42
Qubadi, Wazir 27
Quinlan, Alissa 59
Quinones, Alyssa 27
Quinones, Gavin 8, 11

R

Ragusi, Scarlett 59, 141
Rahimi, Fahima 11
Rahmani, Aimal 42
Rai, Smay 28
Rainer, Ja'liyah 59
Rainer, Ja'siah 42, 99, 104, 105
Ralston, Cortyia 59
Ramirez, Cencer 11
Ramirez, Jose 59
Ramirez, Julio 28
Ramirez, Leticia 28
Ramirez, Marcos 59
Ramirez, Pedro 42
Ramos, Jose 60
Randolph, A Miyah 60
Randolph, Dreshawn 37, 42, 135, 141, 144, 145, 146, 154, 155, 157, 193
Rangel, Leonardo 28
Ray, Kyson 60
Rayford, Antonio 101
Raymond, Jasper 136
Raymond, Jewels 11
Raymond, Juliauna 136
Rea, Analice 28
Redman, Izabelle 11
Reed, Cienna 28, 109, 110, 111, 112, 173, 174, 175, 179, 191
Reed, Mercedes 11
Reed, Paul 28
Reedy, Eli 28, 142, 174, 193
Reese, Autumn 28
Regur, Evan 52, 60, 185
Regur, Ian 28, 56, 98, 99, 104, 105, 185
Reid, Lillian 42
Reid, Owen 11, 146, 147
Reinhardt, Brayden 11
Rettig, Lucas 1, 11, 116, 117, 118, 138, 139, 150, 170, 175
Reyes, Marley 60
Reyes, Yasenya 11
Reymer, Breana 42, 92
Rice, Kayla 3, 10, 11, 31, 80, 81, 106, 107, 111, 119, 130, 161, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 192
Rice, Layla 42, 44, 62, 81, 130
Rice, Lyric 43, 44, 80, 81, 130, 175
Richardson, Benjamin 60, 156
Richardson, Elliott 43
Richardson, Gabriel 28, 113, 136, 140
Richardson, Tayven 28
Richardson, Yolonda 28
Richardson-Cole, Tristian 10, 11
Richey, Isaiah 11
Richey, Oliana 28, 30
Richey, Ulana 31, 60, 99, 102, 103, 104, 105
Rico-Garcia, Maria 60
Riecke, Olivia 60
Rincon, Adrian 60
Rivera, Daniel 43, 141
Rivera-Martinez, Johary 11
Rivera-Martinez, Mauricio 28, 184
Rivera-Perez, Anthony 60
Roberts, Amari 60
Robinson, Amaiah 60, 170
Robinson, Danee' 11, 80, 81, 171, 175, 176
Robinson Cunningham, Nevaeh 10, 11, 31, 106, 107, 170, 192
Robles, Mlica 43
Robles, Rebeca 28
Rockhold, Jason 11
Rockhold, Jesse 28, 191
Rodriguez, Cheyenne 28
Rodriguez, Nehemiah 11, 135, 145, 146, 147, 148, 153, 171
Rodriguez, Rajet 10, 11, 114, 115, 121, 167
Rodriguez, Yair 28
Rodriguez Jacobo, Angel 28
Roelens, Emikalima 60, 134
Roelens, Isabelle 11
Roessler, Matthew 60, 61, 117
Rogers, Daivari 11
Rogers, David 28, 76
Rogers, Kelis 60
Rogers, Neima 60, 83
Rohr, Ava 28, 133, 173, 193
Rohwer, John 11, 15, 74, 75, 166, 172, 179
Romero-Escamilla, Jimena 28
Romero-Escamilla, Karina 60
Romo, Alex 28, 75, 100, 101, 176
Rose, Linda 43
Rose, Patience 11
Rosenthal, Madison 11
Ross, Aaliyah 28, 135
Ross, Ameena 60, 62, 104, 105
Ross, Amir 43, 141
Ross-Cespedes, Felix 11
Rowell, Jude 11, 116, 117, 150, 175, 179
Rubingh, Autumn 28
Rucker, DeShawn 43, 75, 91
Rucker, Nevaeh 43
Rucker-May, Esaias 60
Rudolph, Mykia 11
Ruiz, Evan 11
Rush, Brandon 60

S

Sakho, Khadija 28, 129, 151
Salas, Joanna 11
Salazar-McClain, Daniel 60
Saldivar, Aneesa 11
Saleh, Rachel 28
Salim, Amina 43
Salim, Hawa 28
Salinas, Edwar 60
Salinas-Pelaez, Jose 43, 135, 144, 145

Samuelson, Isaiah 28, 74, 75, 90, 92, 104, 105, 110, 175, 179
Samuelson, Olivia 43, 111, 119, 160, 174, 175, 179, 192, 193
Sanders, Makayla 60
Sanders-Mosby, Jailin 11
Sango, Ramadhan 60
Say, Ku 43
Say, Poe Lie Htoo 60
Schanfish, Jayden 60
Scheper, Gracie 20, 23, 28, 29, 130, 134, 163, 171, 193
Schinckel, Nathan 12
Schulte, Braiden 60
Schwab, Austin 60
Schwartz, Delia 93
Schweickhardt, Connor 12
Scott, Joshua 12, 167
Scott, Presley 134
Sefu, Cameroun 96
Seibel, Xavier 156
Seidlitz, Olivia 60, 129
Sekandari, Hanifullah 43
Sekandari, Nahida 12
Sekandari, Nawidullah 28
Sekandari, Zainab 60
Sekandari, Zarifullah 43
Sepulveda, Trinity 37, 92
Serrano, Amalia 21, 22, 28, 31, 193
Serrato-Rivera, Anette 12
Set, Lah 83
Severs, DeAndrew 28
Shabani, Petro 12
Shadden, Ethan 60
Shadden, Jerrilin 43
Shadden, Lucas 18, 28
Shee, Khu Say 43
Shelton, Jaquay 60
Sher, Ywa Hay 60
Shivmangal, Reginald 12, 87
Sholl, Bailey 27, 29, 46, 122, 123, 193
Shook, Mylie 43, 46, 175, 191
Shorten, Elizabeth 43, 114, 115, 175
Shukuru, Beline 40, 43, 130, 164, 165
Shukuru, Maese 60
Shwartz, Delia 93
Sierra-Lee, Edward 120
Simmons, Ashley 60
Simmons, Ashlynn 29
Singleton, Tracy 149
Sisson, Roland 60
Slater, Hezekiah 60
Slayden, Emalee 43
Smith, Brendan 29
Smith, Cardreyon 60
Smith, Christian 29
Smith, Jaquez 12, 15, 75, 171, 176, 179
Smith, Levi 60
Smith, Logan 1, 43, 47, 58, 59, 135, 144, 146, 147, 148
Smith, Madison 60
Smith, Natalee 5, 10, 12, 15, 105, 127
Smith, Santana 42, 43, 91, 97
Smith, Valerie 38, 43
Smith, Xavier 12
Smithson, Ethan 10, 12, 84, 85, 130, 170, 174
Smock, Jennah 8, 12, 14
Soe, Christ Hay 12, 84, 85, 117, 167
Soe, Eh 60, 139, 151
Soe, Eh Doh 61, 138, 139
Soe, Eh Ler 12
Soe, Eh Nay 47, 51, 61
Soe, Hai Nay 61
Soe, Hsa 43
Soe, Htee 29
Soe, Joshua 61
Soe, Moo Doh 8, 12
Soe, Mu K Paw 12
Son, Cameron 61
Songolo, Bahati 43
Sonnenberg, Preston 29
Sosa, Jesus 43, 174, 193
Sosa, Omar 91
Soulemane, Risala 29
Sountris, Cecelia 29
Spawn, Logan 43, 136
Spence, Tyler 18, 24, 29, 113, 142
Spoljoric, Ariyah 44
Spurgetis, Isabella 50, 61, 106
Stafford, Destiny 51, 53, 61, 170
Staggs, Spencer 29, 144, 151, 193
Staley, Justin 61
Stalkfleet, Jaicob 44
St Amand, Hunter 29, 101
St Amand, Jackson 47, 51, 59, 61, 96, 170
Stanley, Alivia 29, 131, 140
Stanley, Cheyeane 1, 27, 29, 75, 90, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 120, 121, 126, 127, 173, 174, 175, 179, 185, 195
Stanley, Hailey 61, 156, 185
St Clair, Emmily 12
St Clair, Mersades 29
Steele, Sylvya 61
Stella, Ingabire 61, 106
Stephens, Nicolas 29
Stern, Asia 29, 31, 106, 107, 110, 130, 135, 144, 145, 146, 153, 160, 175, 176, 193
Stewart, Abigail 50, 61, 106
Stewart, Grant 44, 45, 79, 96, 141, 175, 179
Stewart, Kaleeya 61
Stewart, Ke'Erica 29
Stewart, Xavier 61, 96
Stigers, Abagail 186
Stivers, Whitney 44, 47, 126, 148, 174, 193
Stockdale, Mary 26, 29, 31, 56, 98, 99, 102, 103, 104, 105, 153
Stockwell, Merrick 44, 88, 98, 99, 104, 105
Stokes, Nicole 61
Stone, Autumn 29, 31, 106, 173, 176, 192
Stone, Nic 134, 140
Stone, Skylar 44, 121, 130
Stone, Skyler 121
Stonehouse, Ava 12, 145, 146, 147
Stoneking, Morghan 12
Stout, Emma 12, 131, 186
Stout, Sophia 44, 130
Strader, Brenden 60, 61, 88
Strandberg, Seth 12
Street, Ethan 44
Su, Eh 44
Su, K'mwee 12, 142
Sullivan, Sidney 61
Sullivan-Lankford, Aizarion 12
Sulouff, Aria 22, 29, 126, 130, 134, 163, 187, 193
Sung, Biak 61
Swanson, Kaiden 61
Sweborg, Mia 61

T

Ta, Eh Tahe 44
Tabb, Paul 44, 141
Tapia, Montoya 61
Tarnow, Lucien 44
Tate, Amya 44
Tate, Darviae 12
Tate, George 61, 77
Taw, Shar Mu 12
Taylor, Eden Elizabeth 156
Taylor, Ma'Liyah 29, 142
Taylor-Johnson, Jeremiah 12, 158, 159
Tem, Anthony 44
Terrell, DaMarie 38, 41, 44
Terry, Makenzie 4, 12, 102, 103, 104, 105, 122, 123, 191
Terry, Ryleigh 44, 47, 122, 123, 171
Thomas, Akeira 44
Thomas, Asia 12
Thomas, Avian 54, 61, 77, 101
Thomas, Cydney 44
Thomas, Jesse 29, 128
Thomas, Raeonna 29
Thomas, Tierra 61
Thomer, Lydia 29, 92, 110, 161, 162, 173, 174, 175, 176, 179, 193
Thompson, Canyon 44, 111, 175, 179, 191
Thompson, Christian 61, 101
Thompson, Evan 12
Thompson, Jaida 38, 40, 44, 110, 111, 144, 145, 193
Thompson, Javarion 12, 101
Thompson, Natalie 44, 115
Thompson, Payton 44
Thornton, Jeremiah 44
Thrap, Kyle 44
Thurman, Aidan 12
Timm, Mallory 25, 29, 31, 106, 107, 173, 175, 176, 179, 193
Tongo, Darius 12, 74, 75, 91, 176
Tot, Jaiden 52, 56, 61
Trahan, Kierian 12, 166
Tresor, Nishimwe 61
Truschke, Kierstin 44
Tuominen Pawlik, Sebastian 29
Tuominen Pawlik, Vianca 61
Turner, Chloe 26, 29, 31, 92, 94, 95, 173
Turner, Taireace 12

U

Umporowicz, Harmony 44, 92
Unley, Ashton 13
Untiedt, Daryn 29, 89, 130, 175, 191
Uwezo, Godelive 13
Uwezo, Simon 61

V

Valdez-Delrio, Xavier 29
Vallejo, Alijah 13, 167
Valverde, Lineth 44
Valverde, Samuel 13
Vance, Hayden 61
Vancoillie, Kaleb 44
VandeWalle, Alexander 61, 154, 155
Vann, Mariah 61
VanThournout, Emmalee 29, 173
Varela, Christian 44
Varela, Isabel 13
Vaughn-McBride, Chauncey 44
Vazquez, Eric 29
Vazquez-Chavarria, Ashley 29
Vazquez Chavarria, Fernanda 61
Veasey, Alaysha 61
Vega, Jorge 29, 170
Vega Romo, Yulisa 29
Velasco, Cristian 13
Velasco, Mackenzee 61
Velazaquez, Thanya 13
Velazquez, Alexia 13
Velazquez, George 61
Venable, Fred 13, 158, 159, 173
Venansia, Riziki 44
Venegas, Adrian 61, 101
Venegas, Elijah 45, 75, 110, 111, 141
Venson, Te'Von 61
Verdeyen, Hunter 29
Vesey, Honesty 61
Vesey, Knowledge 61
Vesey, Truth 30, 87
Veys, Gracelynn 51, 61, 114, 115, 171
Vicentina, Samuel 61
Vidmar, Grace 44, 92, 106, 192, 193
Viernow, Arek 30, 113
Viernow, Halie 10, 13, 15
Villafana, Edgar 62, 77
Villarreal, Makayla 30
Villaseca, Martin 62
Villasenor, Christian 62
Viviani, David 30
Voigt, Avery 13, 46, 130
Voorhis, Elijah 30
Voorhis, Elizabeth 62
Voss, Katelyn 51, 62, 63, 81, 170
Vroman, Averi 62, 67, 82, 83

W

Waffle, Haley 10, 13, 127, 171
Wages, Josiah 44
Wah, Beautiful 51, 62, 63, 148, 170
Wah, Eh 62
Wah, Khu 13
Wah, Poe Dah 30
Wah, Tha Eh 62
Waldron, De'Sean 30
Walker, Davion 44
Walker, Lexie 25, 30, 31, 101, 106, 107, 173, 175, 176, 179, 192, 193
Walls, Alexander 44
Walsh, JaKayla 62, 110
Walter, Robert 13
Wangler, Madison 45, 47
Ware, Dario 45, 85
Warner, Jera 62
Washington, Zavius 30
Wells, Daveyon 30
Wells, Jada 45
Welsh, Nathan 30
Westerfield, Isaiah 62
Westerfield, Keenan 45
Westerfield, Kyle 13, 101
Westerfield-Casco, Juan 30
Westmorland, Egan 20, 21, 30, 186
Westmorland, James 30
Weston, Josiah 30, 166, 167
Whan, Kylee 13, 15
Whipple, Tyler 41, 45, 96, 124, 125, 130, 135, 145, 147, 193
Whitcanack, Makena 30
White, Skyler 30
White, Tyree 62, 101
Whited, Michael 62
Whitten, Tyler 58, 62, 135, 144
Wiese, Olivia 13
Wilde, John 30
Williams, Ashanti 13
Williams, DeAvion 45
Williams, Earraya 62
Williams, Jayden 45
Williams, KeMareo 62, 101
Williams, Nevaeh 62
Williams, Parker 30
Williamson, John 13
Willis, Julius 30
Willoughby, KayNiya 30, 120, 142
Willoughby, Triston 13, 87
Willoughby, Xavier 62
Willoughby, Zion 62
Wilondja, Bisochi 45
Wilondja, Emedi 45, 96, 97
Wilondja, Malingumu 45
Wilondja, Mayani 30
Wilson, Bella 50, 51, 53, 62, 63, 170, 175
Wilson, LaTonyiah 30
Winters Bland, Tiarra 13
Witmer, Noah 62
Witt, Kaden 13, 113, 175
Wolf, Cody 30, 124, 125, 135, 144, 146, 147, 193
Womack, Jaxon 90
Woods, Amiyah 13, 14, 121
Woods, Chandra 45
Woods, Dayvon 30
Woods, Kaliyah 29, 30
Woods, Maisy 23, 30, 46, 134, 163
Woodson, Davion 45
Woodson, DesMond 13, 101, 172, 176
Woods-Stewart, Caleb 62
Wright, Annastasia 13, 108, 109, 173
Wright, Noah 45
Wright, Nolan 45
Wright, Norah 22, 26, 28, 30, 102, 103, 104, 105, 120, 121, 190

Y

Ye, Tway 45
Yoder, Aaron 30
Yonda, Sada 30
York, Cole 55, 62, 135, 145, 191
Young, Barack 45, 101, 175, 179
Young, Kenedi 30, 75, 108, 109, 173, 174
Young, Laron 45

Z

Zahner, Maxwell 13
Zeroth, Miranda 45
Zetina, Alejandra 30
Zetina, Joshua 13
Zulu, Lawson 62, 101
Zuun, Nuam 62, 110, 175

One Last Note...

To Our Readers:

The yearbook you are reading was created by a staff of roughly 25 sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and one advisor. Most students were completely new to Rocky's Journalism class, with our two returning senior editors graduating early to pursue training in the Army and taking on their college media career early. We made every attempt to produce an error free book, with all names spelled correctly. However, it is possible that we have made some unintentional errors.

Our yearbook staff met every day during 4th and 5th period. Fueled by coffee, snacks, energy drinks (despite Ms. Miers' constant nagging), and our class Spotify playlists, the staff worked hard to finish this year's yearbook, and accurately show the story of Rocky students during the 2022-23 school year.

With a mostly new staff, our Rocky journalists worked hard to learn the eDesign program, learned to interview their peers and write articles, and take pictures to showcase Rocky's stories and history this school year. As an advisor, I'm proud of their efforts and dedication to creating an inclusive yearbook, and managing the responsibilities and work load of such a tough endeavor.

To the parents and staff members who provided us with pictures (Jennifer Pendleton, Jarrin Williams, Josh Parr, Melanie Putnam, Mrs. Cartwright-Boyd, and Madison Chastain, to name a few), we thank you. You helped our staff more than you know, and we are grateful. To the yearbook staffers, thank you for working so hard to tell the many perspectives of the Rock. You are an exceptional staff, and your efforts are so appreciated. To the Rocky community, please enjoy this Watchtower, and know we did our best to tell this year's story of Rock Island High School.

- Ms. Miers & the Watchtower Staff

Watchtower, Volume 113, was produced by the Yearbook Staff at Rock Island High School in Rock Island, IL and was printed by Herff Jones, Inc. in Edwardsville, Kansas. The account was serviced by representative, Joelle Sexton, and customer service adviser, Jeannie Brown. The four color litho cover was designed by Taylor Gonnerman and has a matte lamination with UV gloss on all other elements, front and back. The endsheets are four color litho printed on Vibratext White. The 2023 volume includes 200 pages in full color.
All body copy was set in AHJ Craft Gothic.
Layouts were submitted to the plant via eDesign using a Macbook Pro. Digital photos were taken with 10 megapixel digital cameras.
Professional portraits were provided by Photographic Arts by GPI.
The 550 copies of the book were sold for $45/$50/$55.

4th Period Watchtower Staff

4th Period Editors

5th Period Watchtower Staff

5th Period Editors

one team
one goal
one **R I H S**